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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 Agnew of Oulton</b>	Minister of State, Treasury and Cabinet Office
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
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<b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</b>	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
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<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>Lord Sharpe of Epsom</b>	Whip
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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

Thursday, 16 December 2021

## Adult Social Care Funding and Reform

[HLWS498]

**Lord Kamall:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Care and Mental Health (Gillian Keegan) has made the following statement:

As set out in our Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, *People at the Heart of Care*, on 1 December 2021, the government is committed to a wide-ranging and ambitious reform of the adult social care system.

To make social care fairer, we are protecting people from unpredictable care costs; are supporting local authorities to move towards paying a fair cost of care to providers and ensuring that more self-funders will be able to ask their local authority to arrange their care for them to give them a choice of better-value care.

To move us towards the 10-year vision for reform set out in *People at the Heart of Care*, the government is today publishing the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Fund: Purpose and Conditions for 2022-23. This sets out how Government will provide £1.4 billion over the next three years to support local authorities to prepare markets for reform and move towards paying providers a fair cost of care. This breaks down into £162 million in 2022-23 and £600 million in both 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Some local authorities are promoting efficient and effective operation of care markets, with sustainable rates of care. However, a significant number of local authorities are paying residential and home care providers less than it costs to deliver the care received. In many areas, this has resulted in higher self-funder fees which we are addressing by further bringing into effect section 18(3) of the Care Act 2014. The market effect of this change will be that some providers will over time need to reduce reliance on subsidising state funded care from self-funders. This £1.4 billion will enable local authorities to ensure local care markets can respond to the changes reform will bring and will also help to address under-investment and poor workforce practices.

It is important this additional funding reaches the places and parts of the social care system that need it most. The government proposes to distribute 2022-23 funding on the basis of the Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formula, as is used for the Social Care Grant. Local authority level allocations for 2022-23 have been published alongside the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

Today my Department are publishing a policy statement which sets out:

- Funding conditions for 2022-23. As a condition of receiving further grant funding in the two following years, we will expect local authorities to conduct cost of care exercises, set out their plans for driving market

sustainability, including progress towards a fair cost of care, and to report to DHSC on how funding is being used. The Department will use this information to monitor progress and provide public assurance that local markets are being managed successfully.

- Practical guidance and support tools. From January 2022, we will work closely with the sector to develop a practical support offer for those local authorities who may require it to meet the funding conditions. This includes guidance and templates on cost of care exercises; workshops, webinars and market shaping tools.

The funding and conditions set out in this statement today are part of the new Health and Care Levy announced in September this year, of which £5.4 billion is being invested into adult social care over the next three years.

We will work closely with local government to determine appropriate grant conditions, national guidance and distribution mechanisms for funding allocations in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Beyond this additional £1.4 billion, we are proposing today in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement to make available over £1 billion of additional funding for social care in 2022-23.

Councils are not expected to rely solely on this earmarked funding to meet the inflationary and demographic pressures facing these services; they also have access to funding from unringfenced grant, including the 2022-23 Services Grant, and from council tax. The funding available to councils means overall local government core spending power will increase by over 4 per cent in real terms in 2022-23, including the investment in Adult Social Care reform.

Today's publication is a further milestone on the government's journey to reform adult social care, creating a system that is fit for the future and of which we can all be proud.

## COVID-19 Pandemic Public Inquiry: Appointment of Chair

[HLWS484]

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

I am announcing today the appointment of the Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE as chair of the forthcoming public inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic, which is set to begin its work in spring 2022. The inquiry will be established under the 2005 Inquiries Act, with full powers, including the power to compel the production of documents and to summon witnesses to give evidence on oath. The inquiry will be held in public. In consultation with Baroness Hallett, I intend to appoint additional panel members in the new year in order that the inquiry has access to the full range of expertise needed to complete its important work.

Baroness Hallett retired from the Court of Appeal in 2019 and was made a crossbench life peer. She has conducted a range of high-profile and complex inquests, inquiries and reviews, including acting as coroner for the inquests into the deaths of the 52 victims of the 7th July 2005 London bombings; as chair of the Iraq Fatalities Investigations; and as chair of the 2014 Hallett Review of the administrative scheme to deal with ‘on the runs’ in Northern Ireland. Baroness Hallett’s appointment to this role follows a recommendation made by the Lord Chief Justice.

Baroness Hallett is currently acting as coroner in the inquest into the death of Dawn Sturgess, who died in July 2018 following exposure to the nerve agent Novichok. The Home Secretary announced on 18 November that a public inquiry would be established into these matters, and the inquest adjourned, in order to permit all relevant evidence to be heard. A new chair for that inquiry will be appointed early in the new year.

The public inquiry into COVID-19 will play a key role in examining the UK’s pandemic response and ensuring that we learn the right lessons for the future. In doing so, it must ensure that those most affected by the pandemic - including those who have sadly lost loved ones - can play their proper role in the process. I will now consult Baroness Hallett and ministers in the devolved administrations on the terms of reference for the inquiry and will publish these in draft in the new year. Baroness Hallett has agreed to then take forward a process of public engagement and consultation - including with bereaved families and other affected groups - before the terms of reference are finalised. I will make a further statement when it is time for that process to begin.

### David Fuller Case: Update on Actions

[HLWS493]

**Lord Kamall:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Patient Safety and Primary Care) (Maria Caulfield) has made the following statement:

Yesterday, David Fuller was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court for the murders of Wendy Knell and Caroline Pierce, as well as over 100 sexual offences in a mortuary, and several other sexual offences.

This is a profoundly distressing case and I would like to reiterate my apologies to the friends and families of all of David Fuller’s victims. While nothing can undo the damage that has been done, he has been brought to justice for his crimes.

I would like to provide an update on the steps we are taking to ensure something like this never happens again.

Firstly, all NHS Trusts have undertaken risk assessments on their mortuary and body store facilities and assured their practices against existing Human Tissue Authority guidance. NHS England and Improvement is working with all trusts to ensure that the additional steps already requested are in place early in the New Year, if they have not already been delivered.

Secondly, we have made good progress in establishing the independent inquiry chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael to look into the circumstances surrounding the offences committed at the hospital. It will help us understand how these offences took place without detection, identify any areas where swift action is necessary and consider wider national issues, including for the NHS. Sir Jonathan has developed draft terms of reference and will seek views on these from families who have been affected in the new year before they are published.

Next, Ministers have received initial advice from the Human Tissue Authority and they will be reviewing this carefully.

Finally, families have quite understandably approached the Trust seeking compensation. I have asked NHS Resolution to work with the Trust and engage on plans for providing settlements. More details will be set out on this soon.

### Disability Workforce Reporting Consultation

[HLWS488]

**Baroness Stedman-Scott:** My honourable Friend, Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work (Chloe Smith MP) has made the following Written Statement:

Today the Government is publishing its consultation on disability workforce reporting, as announced in the National Disability Strategy.

Our strategy, published in July 2021, set out over 100 wide-ranging practical actions to improve the everyday lives of disabled people. The strategy focuses on the issues that disabled people have told us matter most to them.

Supportive workplaces, where disabled people feel valued and able to be open about any additional needs, are vital to driving progress. It is also important that employers have the information required to create inclusive workplaces.

Through this consultation we will build an evidence base to better understand:

- current reporting practices, and what works well
- the case for and against implementing a mandatory approach to reporting
- how a mandated approach to reporting, if adopted, might be implemented in practice
- if there are alternative approaches that could also be taken to enhance transparency and increase inclusive practices.

I would encourage Members to make constituents and networks aware of the consultation, and to respond before the closing date on 25 March 2022.

I will deposit a copy of the consultation in the Libraries of both Houses and publishing it online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/disability-workforce-reporting>.

## Future Nuclear Deterrent Annual Update 2021

[HLWS492]

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

On 18 May 2011, the then Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Hon. Member for North Somerset (Dr. Liam Fox) made an oral statement to the House (Official Report column 351) announcing the approval of the Initial Gate investment stage for the procurement of the successor to the VANGUARD Class ballistic missile submarines. He also placed in the Library of the House a report "The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: The Submarine Initial Gate Parliamentary Report".

As confirmed in the 2021 Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, this Government has committed to publishing an annual report on the programme. I am today publishing the ninth report, "The United Kingdom's Future Nuclear Deterrent: 2021 Update to Parliament".

A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. The Statement includes the following attached material:

UK's Future Nuclear Deterrent 2021 [2021 Nuclear Deterrent Update to Parliament - v3.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2021-12-16/HLWS492/>

## Home Office Delivery 2021

[HLWS497]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My right hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I am updating Parliament on Home Office delivery over the last twelve months.

Dealing with the effects of Covid-19 has been a challenge for the entire country, but it has also brought out the best of us as communities stepped up to deal with those challenges. Few have played a more important role than our emergency service workers and I put on record my particular thanks to the police officers and firefighters who have continued selflessly to serve the public in sometimes trying circumstances, as well as all Home Office staff and Border Force officers who have played their part in the fight against Covid-19.

Despite Covid-19, the Home Office has continued to deliver on the people's priorities and as we recover from the pandemic, we will continue to build back safer in 2022.

### *Cutting crime and law enforcement*

We are delivering our manifesto commitment for new police officer recruitment, having recruited more than

11,000 of the 20,000 new police officers we have pledged for England and Wales to help cut crime and protect our communities. Every region in the country has more police officers keeping our streets and communities safer day and night – both beating crime and preventing crime.

The College of Policing has continued to connect all those working in the police and law enforcement, with the chair of its board, Lord Herbert of South Downs, launching a fundamental review of the College's work. This is important if we are to ensure that it continues to meet its potential and that its work and role within policing is valued across the service.

We have published several landmark strategies on the safety and security of our nation.

Our Beating Crime Plan establishes how the Government will ensure the public is better protected across all parts of the country, with each neighbourhood having contactable, named police officers who know their area and are best placed to ensure that persistent crime and anti-social behaviour is tackled.

Our Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy set out plans to increase support for victims and survivors, increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice and reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls in the long term. The need for the strategy became all the more stark following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard and immediate measures taken included the creation of the new online tool 'StreetSafe'. This provides women and girls with a way to anonymously and quickly pinpoint areas where they have felt unsafe and say why – an innovative crime prevention tool. The appointment in September of Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth as the National Police Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls means that police action in this vital area is now being coordinated across England and Wales.

In June we published the end-to-end rape review report on findings and actions, in which we committed to deliver lasting improvements to the way we investigate and prosecute rape so that victims are properly supported and they - and the public - can have confidence that perpetrators of this sickening crime will feel the full force of the law.

The Domestic Abuse Act, which gained Royal Assent this year, provides for the first time in history a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse and delivers important new protections and support for victims, such as ensuring that abusers can no longer directly cross-examine their victims in the family and civil courts. It also gives police new powers, including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices which provide victims with immediate protection from abusers.

We also published our Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy - a first-of-its-kind national strategy to protect children from all forms of child sexual abuse in which we set out how the government will use new legislation and enhanced technology to stop offenders in their tracks and bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice.

We have also enhanced our work tackling the scourge of drugs with a new cross-government 10-year strategy which includes pursuing and closing down the ruthless gangs who exploit and threaten the most vulnerable in society for financial gain through the illegal drugs trade. We have already closed down 1,500 county lines and this new crackdown aims to dismantle a further 2,000, as we seek to continue driving down crime and delivering safer streets for all.

During the course of this year, we have also expanded Project ADDER, the programme which seeks to ensure that more drug users get effective treatment, with enhanced treatment and recovery provision. Its overarching aim is to reduce drug-related deaths, reduce drug-related offending and reduce the prevalence of drug use while disrupting high-harm criminals and networks involved in the supply and importation of drugs. Having launched the programme in January 2021 in Blackpool, Hastings, Middlesbrough, Norwich and Swansea Bay, in July 2021 it expanded to take in Bristol, Newcastle, Wakefield, the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Hackney, and three local authorities in Liverpool City Region.

Meanwhile, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill – legislation to restore confidence in the criminal justice system – is approaching its concluding stages in the House of Lords. Once enacted, this will give our police officers more of the powers and tools they need to keep themselves and all of us safe, while introducing tougher sentencing for the worst offenders and ending automatic halfway release from prison for serious crimes. Following recent antisocial protests which have caused misery and disruption for countless road users and citizens going about their lawful business, the legislation will give the police the power to stop and search people in order to seize items such as glue and chains intended to cause serious disruption by ‘locking-on’. It will also introduce mandatory life sentences for those who kill an emergency worker in the course of their duty.

Following the mass shooting in Plymouth in August, a review of police firearms licensing procedures was completed, including a review of licences which had been surrendered, seized, revoked or refused, only then to be returned following further checks or appeals. Following this review, eight of these returned licences were either re-surrendered or revoked, providing further reassurance to the public that their safety remains our priority.

We have also continued to establish what needs to be done to protect people from being exposed to harmful content online, whether that be publishing incitement to terrorism or images of the sexual abuse of children. I will continue to hold technology companies to account for the harmful content they host on their platforms and if they neglect public safety when designing products; and in due course our Online Safety Bill will place on those technology companies a binding duty of care to their users – and end-to-end encryption will not release them from that duty. This is fundamental to ensuring public safety and keeping people safe from evil.

Figures published last month show a 14% decrease in total crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse) across England and Wales for the year ending June 2021, compared with the year ending June 2019. This includes an 11% decrease in the number of homicides, a 6% decrease in the number of police recorded offences involving firearms and an 8% decrease in offences involving knives or sharp instruments.

#### *Controlling our borders*

Following the UK’s exit from the European Union we have been able to take back control of our borders by ending free movement and introducing our new Points-Based Immigration System, which has now been in operation for over a year. We have also created new routes to attract the most talented and highly-skilled workers and global leaders in their fields to the UK.

These include the Graduate route, which will allow talented international graduates who have been awarded their degree from a UK university to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for at least two years, and the new fast-track International Sportsperson route, which will make it easier for professional athletes across sports to work in the country.

Additionally, we have improved the employer sponsorship system to enable UK businesses and educational institutions to become sponsors and attract global talent faster, while adding more illustrious prizes to the Global Talent Visa, making it simpler for more of the world’s most gifted minds to come to the country.

We have also created an immigration route for British Nationals Overseas status holders in Hong Kong, reflecting our historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong who have had their rights and freedoms restricted. As of 30 September, since the route launched on 31 January 2021 there had been 67,300 applications with 57,300 successful grants.

Recognising the considerable public concerns about illegal migration, the Nationality and Borders Bill is a critical piece of legislation whose aim is to deter illegal entry into the UK and reduce the pull factors. It was given its Third Reading in the House of Commons by a majority of 67 earlier this month.

This legislation will deliver long-overdue reform to our broken asylum and immigration system and will be critical in making unviable the business model of the people smugglers who threaten the lives of every person from whom they take money to then place in unseaworthy vessels to cross the English Channel.

Once enacted, this legislation will: make the system fairer and more effective so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum; deter illegal entry into the UK and save lives by breaking the business model of those criminal trafficking networks; and remove from the UK those with no right to be here.

We have also continued to work closely with our international partners on tackling this shared problem emanating from the global migration crisis and specifically signed a new agreement with the French

government to strengthen UK-France cooperation on tackling illegal immigration across the Channel.

The tireless work of the National Crime Agency tackling organised immigration crime has also played an important role in helping bring to justice people smugglers, having been involved in more than 140 arrests in the first eleven months of this year and with around 50 ongoing investigations linked to organised immigration crime. (The NCA has also played a critical role in other areas, such as keeping children safe online throughout the pandemic and disrupting high risk offenders.)

We have also signed a new agreement with the Albanian government to remove Albanian nationals who have no right to be in the UK, and established a new Migration and Mobility Partnership with the Indian government, supporting people coming to the UK through legal routes, while stopping the abuse of the system and speeding up the removal of those who have no right to be in the UK.

#### *Protecting the homeland*

Most of the work of our counter-terrorism police and security agencies is done out of public sight for good reasons, but they play an essential role in keeping the public safe.

They constantly review where threats exist and take the necessary action to clamp down on those with malign intent. To that end, this year Parliament has proscribed the entirety of Hamas, the militant Islamist terrorist movement, as a terrorist organisation, as well as Atomwaffen Division and The Base, predominantly US-based white supremacist groups.

During the year, the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act received Royal Assent, further protecting the public by completely ending the prospect of early release for anyone convicted of a serious terror offence and forcing them to spend their whole term in jail. It also enhances the tools available to counter-terrorism police and the security services to manage the risk posed by terrorist offenders and individuals of concern outside of custody.

The Covert Human Intelligence Sources Act was also given Royal Assent, providing a clear and consistent statutory basis so that our intelligence and enforcement agencies and public bodies have the right tools to keep us safe. This longstanding critical capability supports the work of undercover agents in preventing and safeguarding victims from serious crimes, including terrorism, by ensuring they can gain the trust of those under investigation.

This year also saw the unveiling of the first elements of the new Counter Terrorism Operations Centre in London, including a cutting-edge counter terrorism operations suite which is now fully operational and helping to keep the public safe.

During the summer, the Home Office stepped up to help in the evacuation of people from Kabul airport – the largest evacuation mission undertaken since the Second World War, which involved getting more than 16,000

people out of the Afghan capital. The Home Office's dual priorities during this evacuation were to save as many lives as possible while keeping the British public safe and I'm very proud of all who worked on that immense response.

Likewise, I was proud of all the Home Office teams, police and our partner agencies who were involved in safely delivering the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November – the largest international event the UK has hosted since the 2012 Olympics – as well as the G7 summit earlier this year. UKVI staff and Border Force officers efficiently processed and welcomed tens of thousands of visiting delegates from around the world; meanwhile, police officers from across the UK and our security agencies kept attendees and the public safe throughout – as they do without fanfare across the UK every day of the year. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

#### *International engagement*

In September I chaired the G7 interior ministers in London, showing how the UK is taking a lead on the international stage in the spheres of Counter Terrorism and illegal migration, as well as tackling Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation online. We agreed to work together to take action to prevent and combat violent extremism and terrorism; to protect people against harms enabled or exacerbated by the internet; to ensure security is not undermined by the threat of serious and organised crime; to support global action to confront emerging issues for national and border security; and to strengthen international action against corruption and kleptocracies.

Throughout the year I and ministerial colleagues have engaged with numerous counterparts from around the world. In November I visited Washington, where I met with senior members of the US administration, and it was agreed that the UK and US security services will undertake joint work to further strengthen the vital counter terrorism relationship between our two nations.

#### *EU Settlement Scheme*

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, a considerable number of our EU friends and neighbours decided to make the UK their home and secure the status to which they are entitled through the hugely successful EU Settlement Scheme. By the end of November 2021, more than 6.3 million applications had been received, with over 5.9 million (94%) applications concluded. We have continued to work as quickly as possible to conclude applications, as well as supporting people with late applications, and the scheme remains open indefinitely for late applications.

#### *Windrush*

Finally, this year, we have continued to put right the wrongs suffered by the Windrush generation under successive governments. Following the overhaul of the Compensation Scheme I announced in December 2020, it is now easier for people to get higher payments more quickly, and as a result of my changes, more than £38 million has been paid or offered in compensation.

We simplified the application process, including changes to the primary claim form, designed in consultation with stakeholders, to make it easier to complete and easier for caseworkers to process; and for those who need support, we have funded an organisation to provide free, independent claimant assistance to individuals for the duration of the Scheme.

We have also worked at pace to implement the recommendations of the Windrush Lessons Learned review, with Wendy Williams having recently returned to the Home Office to undertake a progress review on delivery of her recommendations.

### **Independent Inquiry Report into the Issues Raised by Former Surgeon Ian Paterson**

[HLWS491]

**Lord Kamall:** My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Patient Safety and Primary Care) (Maria Caulfield) has made the following statement:

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Independent Inquiry into the issues raised by the disgraced surgeon Ian Paterson published its report, which was welcomed by the government. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020, we reluctantly announced a delay in the government response due to the unprecedented pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, we provided an update on the progress made and committed to publishing a full response during 2021. Today, the government has published that response.

We want to thank the Right Reverend Bishop Graham James and the inquiry team for their thorough report which provides a detailed analysis of the issues which allowed this malpractice to take place and recommends steps to better protect patients moving forward.

Our thanks also go to the patients who shared their experiences with the Inquiry and to their representatives who subsequently continued to engage with the government through the process of preparing this response. Patient voices have rightly been central to this entire process.

#### *The government's response*

The Inquiry's findings point to several important themes where action is needed to improve protections for patients being given hospital-based care – whether in the NHS or independent sector. These actions must improve the way our health system works for patients at every stage of their treatment journey.

The health system has to provide patient-centred information to enable patients, their families and carers to make informed decisions about their treatment and care. Medical practitioners should face regular challenge to improve the standard of care they provide as part of their overall learning and development, with concerns about their practice from any source heard and acted upon. There must be accountability across the healthcare system, ensuring quality of service from the frontline to the boardroom. Finally, when things do go wrong,

patients must have the confidence that the entire system will work to put things right – meeting the needs of the patient and learning the lessons to prevent the same mistakes being repeated.

Working with patients and stakeholders, we have carefully considered all 15 recommendations the Inquiry made for improving the health system. We are accepting 12 of these recommendations either in full or in principle with a further 1 recommendation still pending. There is 1 recommendation we are not accepting but keeping under review and 1 recommendation that we do not accept. Whether we are accepting the recommendation or not, we are taking action to improve healthcare against every recommendation.

The response outlines actions which have been taken since Ian Paterson's malpractice came to light, in addition to detailing 40 actions for our further implementation plan. The government will review the progress made in this implementation in a further publication after 12 months to ensure adequate action has been taken and update where additional action is planned.

#### *Recommendation 1*

Recommendation 1 calls for a single repository of the whole practice of consultants in England containing critical consultant performance data. This would be made accessible for use by both managers and healthcare professionals, and by members of the public. We accept this recommendation in principle. A significant amount of progress has been made on the collection of consultant performance data in both the NHS and independent sector. We commit to making more progress on the collection of data, use of the information it allows us to develop, and the publication of useful metrics. In 2018, the Acute Data Alignment Programme was launched to move towards a common set of standards for data collection and reporting across the NHS and independent sector. This brings together data collection through NHS Digital, with the use and processing of this data in parallel in the NHS and independent sector through the National Consultant Information Programme (NCIP) and the Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN). This is currently in pilot, with the potential to be fully implemented, dependent on the results of that pilot, in 2022-23. This data will be made available for managers and healthcare professionals across the system to support learning and identify outliers. PHIN is already mandated to publish information on consultant practice in the independent sector and will be continuing to roll-out the publication of further metrics in the coming years. Over the next 12 months, we commit to reaching a decision with key stakeholders on what further information should be made publicly available and whether further government action will be needed to achieve this.

#### *Recommendation 2*

Recommendation 2 asks that it become standard practice for consultants to write directly to patients about their treatment and care in language they can understand. We are pleased to accept this recommendation. Guidance across the system makes clear that this is best practice and

a range of key stakeholders have agreed to write to their members to encourage the uptake of this advice. We will continue to explore with providers how their systems can change to embed this process and to monitor that best practice is being followed.

#### *Recommendation 3*

Recommendation 3 requires the publication of information explaining the differences in how care is organised in the NHS and the independent sector, so that patients can make informed decisions. We have accepted this recommendation. We will be commissioning the production of this independent information, to be created in partnership with patients, families and carers. This will be published in 2022 and made widely accessible.

#### *Recommendation 4*

Recommendation 4 calls for the introduction of a short waiting period in the decision-making process for surgical procedures, to enable reflection on the diagnosis and treatment options. We are accepting this recommendation in principle. Whilst a specific period for general surgery is not being introduced, as the time required will depend on the patient and the procedure in question, the General Medical Council has updated its guidance to confirm that patients should be given sufficient time to consider their options before making decisions about treatments. During appraisals, doctors must demonstrate they are meeting the principles set out in GMC's 'Good Medical Practice', and CQC takes all GMC guidance into account during its assessments across the NHS and independent sector.

#### *Recommendation 5*

Recommendation 5 relates to multi-disciplinary teams, asking CQC to assure that all hospital providers are complying effectively with national MDT guidance. We have accepted this recommendation. CQC has added more detailed prompts to its inspection framework on multi-disciplinary team working. When assessing providers across the NHS and independent sector, CQC will continue to seek assurance that patients are not at risk of harm due to non-compliance in this area.

#### *Recommendation 6*

We have considered recommendation 6, which relates to complaints processes, in two parts. The first part calls for more effective communication to patients of the means to escalate a complaint to an independent body. We have accepted this part of the recommendation. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman is piloting the NHS Complaints Standards which set out in one place the ways in which the NHS should handle complaints. This includes the need for organisations to ensure people know how to escalate a complaint to the ombudsman. These have been developed with the Independent Sector Complaints Adjudication Service, ISCAS, who have included it in their code of practice.

The second part of recommendation 6 proposes that all private patients are given the right to mandatory independent resolution of their complaints. We have accepted this part in principle. CQC will strengthen its

guidance to make clearer that it expects to see arrangements in place for patients to access independent complaints resolution. We will review the impact of this guidance in the coming year and will explore whether legislative action is needed, if insufficient action is taken.

#### *Recommendations 7 and 8*

Recommendations 7 and 8 both relate to the recall of patients of Ian Paterson by providers – University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Spire Healthcare. These recommendations have already been accepted in full. UHB has contacted all known living patients of Ian Paterson and ensured that all cases had been reviewed by June 2021. Spire had proactively contacted all known living patients by December 2020 and have now reviewed the care of over two-thirds of the patients concerned. We have asked Spire to provide an update on progress in 12 months on reviewing the remaining patients.

#### *Recommendation 9*

Recommendation 9 calls for a national framework to be developed for the recall of patients. We have accepted this recommendation. This framework has been developed and outlines actions to be taken by organisations in the NHS and independent sector in the event that a patient recall is necessary. This framework will be published in 2022 and will be owned by the National Quality Board, who will ensure it is periodically updated.

#### *Recommendation 10*

Recommendation 10 relates to indemnity products for healthcare professionals and asks for the shortcomings in clinical negligence cover identified by the inquiry to be resolved. The outcome of this recommendation is pending. We recognise that a system needs to be in place to ensure that patients have confidence that they can access compensation if harmed while receiving care, and we will bring forward proposals in 2022. These proposals will build on the consultation at the end of 2018 on 'Appropriate clinical negligence cover' for regulated healthcare professionals. The summary of responses to this consultation will be published in early 2022. We have put forward an extended programme of actions in our response to work towards change in this area, and we will ensure any reforms are robust, meeting the needs of both patients and professionals, before implementing them.

#### *Recommendation 11*

Recommendation 11 calls for the government to ensure that the system of regulation in healthcare serves patient safety, that regulators collaborate effectively and that weaknesses identified by the inquiry are resolved. We are accepting this recommendation. The healthcare regulators referenced in the Paterson Inquiry (the GMC, Nursing and Midwifery Council, and CQC) exist to protect patient safety and this is reflected in their new corporate strategies. They have also taken a number of actions to encourage collaboration and information sharing between organisations. The government's consultation on 'Regulating Healthcare Professionals, Protecting the

Public' sets out proposals which address issues raised by the inquiry, including a proposed duty to cooperate for all regulators. We plan to bring forward legislation in relation to the GMC in 2022.

#### *Recommendation 12*

We have considered recommendation 12 in two parts. The first part required that any investigation of a healthcare professional's behaviour should result in a suspension, if there is any perceived risk to patient safety. We have not accepted this recommendation. Exclusion and restriction of practice can be a necessary and appropriate response during an investigation in some instances. However, we do not believe it would be fair or appropriate to impose this step as a blanket rule in all cases. It is vital that investigations are robust and conducted in a timely manner. Guidance has been implemented in recent years to ensure concerns are taken seriously and appropriate action taken, including clear advice on when exclusion is the right step to take.

The second part of recommendation 12 proposes that any concerns about a healthcare professional at one provider should be shared with other providers they work with. We accept this recommendation in principle. Where patient safety is at risk, information should be shared. Providers must use their judgement, though, as they are taking on responsibility to ensure the information is appropriate and accurate when shared. Regulators have taken key steps to make it easier for people and organisations to share information regarding patient safety risks.

#### *Recommendation 13*

Recommendation 13 identifies a specific issue relating to the engagement of consultants through practising privileges in the independent sector. This is where the consultant is self-employed and allowed to work in the hospital's facilities, rather than employed by the hospital. In the case of Ian Paterson, this led to a gap in responsibility and liability for the consultant's actions. The Inquiry reported the impression that private providers were just renting consultants a room, and claims for compensation took significant time and effort from patients to resolve. We accept this recommendation in principle. Independent sector providers must take responsibility for the quality of care provided in their facilities, regardless of how the consultants are engaged. The Independent Healthcare Provider Network published the Medical Practitioners Assurance Framework in 2019 to improve consistency around effective clinical governance in the independent sector. We encourage all private providers to take up this framework, and CQC will continue to assess the strength of clinical governance in all providers as part of its inspection activity. We will be using the response to recommendation 10 on indemnity products and the programme of action laid out there as the initial response to the challenges faced by patients of Ian Paterson in accessing compensation. We will additionally keep the potential liability held by providers in the independent sector under review.

#### *Recommendation 14*

Recommendation 14 says that apologies should be given at the earliest stage of investigation when something goes wrong, and that potential liability should not hold anyone back from apologising. We accept this recommendation. Healthcare organisations have a statutory duty of candour – which sets out specific requirements providers must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment, including providing truthful information and an apology. This duty is regulated by CQC. NHS Resolution consistently advises members to apologise when things go wrong and that this has no impact on potential legal liability. We continue to ensure this guidance is promoted.

#### *Recommendation 15*

Finally, recommendation 15 says that private providers should not be eligible for NHS contracted work unless they have implemented all the other accepted recommendations from this response across the entirety of their workload. We are not accepting this recommendation, but will keep it under review. Across all the issues raised in this inquiry report, independent sector providers are fully committed to implementing changes alongside NHS providers. These providers must meet the same regulatory standards as NHS providers, as required by CQC. Independent providers must meet the conditions of the NHS Provider License and the NHS Standard Contract to be able to deliver NHS-funded treatment. Accepting this recommendation would create a duty on the NHS which would need to be carefully implemented to ensure it could be monitored effectively and would not reduce the capacity available to the NHS for providing care – particularly given the numbers of patients waiting for treatment as a result of the pandemic. We do, however, recognise the importance of ensuring change takes place. We will continue to work with the independent sector to implement the changes related to the Inquiry's recommendations and will review progress in 12-months' time. We commit to taking robust action should progress not meet our expectations.

This response forms part of the government's broader commitment to patient safety, including our response to the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review as previously published and the measures included in the Health and Care Bill.

Copies of the government's full response will be laid before the House and will be available from the Vote Office and at: <https://www.gov.uk>.

### **Independent Review of Construction Frameworks**

[HLWS486]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Government has today published the Independent Review of Construction Frameworks Report. The Review is a key part of implementing the Construction Playbook which was published in December 2020 to deliver the Government's

ambition of transforming how we assess, procure and deliver public works projects and programmes. This work has been led by Professor David Mosey of King's College London and supported by the invaluable input of over 120 participants from across the construction industry and public sector. The recommendations in the review will help to ensure the principles of the Construction Playbook apply to the many projects that utilise commercial frameworks and not only those that run standalone procurement exercises. This will help change the face of the construction industry and enable better, faster and greener project outcomes.

The review reflects the Government's focus on delivering for the taxpayer by getting projects right from the start, driving better outcomes and achieving a more productive and sustainable construction sector. It sets out the components of a Gold Standard Framework that will help Government to make informed procurement and contracting decisions. The report makes specific recommendations and highlights examples of good practice that provide value for money through reducing waste and supporting innovation.

Applying the Gold Standard will enable us to easily identify those frameworks which embody the policies and principles of best practice whilst providing a number of options to ensure competition and flexibility. This will be achieved through:

- An outcome-based strategic approach that drives economic, social and environmental value;
- Collaborative, multi-party relationships that align objectives, success measures, targets and incentives with commitments to jointly work on improving value and reducing risk; and
- Improved framework call-off systems, cost models and incentives that provide a fair return for suppliers and that drive value rather than a race to the bottom.

Construction is a key UK industry and we are committed to underpinning the economy through investing in infrastructure. By improving our approach to construction frameworks, we will progress towards a sustainable and more productive construction sector which benefits all of our citizens. A full list of the recommendations is available as part of the report published today on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

A copy of the Independent Review of Construction Frameworks Report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

## Interpol General Assembly

[HLWS485]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Crime and Policing (Kit Malthouse) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Interpol 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly took place in Istanbul, Turkey between 23-25 November, during which elections

took place for the role of Interpol President and membership of the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly voted to elect the UAE candidate, Major General Al-Raisi, as Interpol President for a period of four years, on a majority of 104 to 47. Voting was conducted in secret.

The UK candidate for election to the Executive Committee, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr of Police Scotland, was also elected, and will take a seat alongside Turkey and Spain to represent the European region in Interpol for a period of 3 years. In addition, a UK lawyer, Ms Susie Alegre, was elected to the Requests Chamber of the Commission for the Control of Files (CCF).

Interpol remains a vital tool for UK law enforcement in tackling international crime worldwide and we will work with the newly elected Executive Committee to ensure that it continues to operate in accordance with its Constitution and with full respect for human rights obligations.

## Medicine Supplies to Northern Ireland

[HLWS494]

**Lord Kamall:** My Hon Friend the Minister of State for Health (Edward Argar) has made the following statement:

Under the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP), medicines moving from GB to NI are required to comply with the EU Pharmaceutical Acquis. This creates a number of additional and duplicative regulatory barriers which risk the continuity of supply for medicines moving into NI.

Negotiations are underway to seek a bilateral agreement with the EU to tackle these problems. In order to support this, it is essential that we do everything we can to ensure that our regulations are fit for purpose, regardless of the outcome of these negotiations, and that the supply of medicines to patients in Northern Ireland is not put at risk.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), and officials from my own Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), have been working closely with officials from the Northern Ireland Department of Health (DHNI) in recent months to design a robust contingency measure which can be operational, if necessary, to support the flow of medicines into Northern Ireland from 1 January 2022.

Today the UK Government will be introducing a statutory instrument titled the Human Medicines (Amendment) (Supply to Northern Ireland) Regulations 2021 to establish the Northern Ireland MHRA Authorised Route (NIMAR).

NIMAR provides a route for the lawful supply of prescription only medicines that are unlicensed in NI, where no licensed alternative is available. This route will be tightly governed, with all medicines supplied via NIMAR already complying with the strong regulatory safeguards required for a product to enter the GB market. All medicines supplied this way into Northern Ireland will meet the MHRA's robust standards that are in place for the rest of the UK.

Supply using the NIMAR route will be closely monitored by DHSC, in partnership with officials at DHNI. It will only be used where clinical need cannot be met by a licensed alternative, in the interests of public health.

It will allow citizens in NI to continue to access the prescription only medications that they require for their individual treatment.

The required statutory instrument will be laid before the house today, along with the accompanying explanatory memorandum, and I invite members to refer to this for more detail on the functionality and detail of NIMAR.

## Nuclear Third Party Liability Framework

[HLWS490]

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

Today I am notifying Parliament of the ratification of the 2004 Protocols to amend the Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy (the “Paris Convention”) and the Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention (the “Brussels Convention”) (together the “2004 Protocols”) that will come into force on 01 January 2022. The 2004 Protocols were laid before Parliament in September 2015 under cover of Miscellaneous Series 6 (2015), Command Paper 9135 and Miscellaneous Series 7 (2015), Command Paper 9136 respectively.

The Paris and Brussels Conventions are implemented domestically through the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. This has been amended prospectively by the Nuclear Installations (Liability for Damage) Order 2016 to implement the 2004 Protocols. Ratification of the 2004 Protocols will trigger the remainder of the 2016 Order coming into force in the UK on 1 January 2022.

Nuclear has a key role to play in our transition to net zero by 2050. Nuclear safety and regulation are of paramount importance and the risk of any accidents in the UK remain very low. Nevertheless, ratification of the 2004 Protocols mean that in the highly unlikely event of an incident, an increased level of compensation would be available to victims and the period during which claims can be brought would be extended. The 2004 Protocols, once in force, increase operator liability in the event of a nuclear incident from the current €140m to a maximum of €1.2bn over a period of 5 years and extends the period for which claims can be made from 10 to 30 years.

The Government recognises that in the short term, there is a gap in the insurance market. Therefore, the government has agreed initially to provide an indemnity, for a charge, to cover increased personal injury liabilities for the 10 to 30 year period. For each individual site, the maximum HMG liability is between €70m and €160m depending on the site's classification, operator's uptake of the indemnity, and whether transit of nuclear material takes place. The indemnity will be reviewed annually to

ensure that it remains the best value for money option. In relation to this, I have today laid before Parliament a Departmental Minute giving notice of the Department incurring this contingent liability.

Additionally, the Government is also providing an indemnity to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The NDA are a non-departmental public body who are responsible for the decommissioning of several civil nuclear facilities, and who will be required to have appropriate cover in place. This creates a maximum contingent liability of €700m in the first year, rising to €1.2bn for the government per site over a five year period.

We also intend to build on our well established nuclear third-party liability regime by seeking accession to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (the “CSC”), by working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (“IAEA”) as depository for the CSC, and legislating when parliamentary time allows. Accession to the CSC would expand the number of countries to which the principles of channelling liability to the operator, and capping that liability, apply. This further improves the investment climate for new nuclear in the UK, without placing any additional burden of liability for developers or operators. In the event of a nuclear incident in a country that is party to the CSC, the UK would contribute an amount to the shared international fund, based on its installed capacity and UN contributions at the time. Similarly, in the events of an incident in the UK, we would be able to draw on these pooled CSC funds.

## Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022-23

[HLWS496]

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

### Introduction

Today, I have set out the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23. This is a Settlement that, at a national level, makes available an additional £3.5 billion to councils, an increase in local authority funding for 2022/23 of over 4% in real terms. This will ensure councils across the country have the resources they need to deliver key services.

The proposals I am announcing today focus on providing stability by:

- Making available up to £3.5 billion more funding for councils across England compared to 2021/22. Overall, this means up to £53.9 billion of funding available for core services.
- Providing a new, one-off 2022/23 Services Grant worth £822 million.
- Striking a balance on Council Tax that helps councils invest in the services they provide to residents while

protecting hard-working taxpayers from unfair hikes in rates, with a 2% core referendum threshold and 1% of additional flexibility for councils with adult social care responsibilities.

- Making available over £1 billion of additional funding for social care.

Alongside this Settlement, the Government will be providing further support to local communities through: £2.6 billion of UK Shared Prosperity funding, which helps people access opportunities in places in need; a £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, which seeks to level up the country by investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK; and a further £2 billion of investment across the next three years to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

#### *2022/23 Services Grant*

Local government delivers a range of services that are at the core of every community.

I therefore propose to create a one-off 2022/23 Services Grant worth £822 million that will be distributed through our existing Settlement Funding Assessment. We will then take the time to fully consider its future distribution in consultation with councils.

This funding would be excluded from any proposed baseline for transitional support as a result of any proposed system changes.

#### *Adults and Children's Social Care*

The Government is committed to ensuring local government has the resources it needs to support the most vulnerable through adult and children's social care.

I propose, therefore, allocating £700 million of new grant funding going to social care. This means:

- £636 million more into the Social Care Grant, including funding for equalisation against the 1% Adult Social Care precept.
- providing an inflationary uplift to support integrated working with the NHS.

Local authorities can make use of over £1 billion of additional resource specifically for social care in 2022/23. This includes the increase in Social Care Grant and the improved Better Care Fund, a 1% Adult Social Care precept and deferred flexibilities from last year's settlement.

For many councils, adults and children's social care are key priorities and the largest areas of spending. Councils are not expected to rely solely on this earmarked funding to meet the inflationary and demographic pressures facing these services; they also have access to funding from unringfenced grant, including the 2022/23 Services Grant, and from council tax.

On top of this funding to address core pressures, £162 million in Adult Social Care reform funding will be allocated in 2022/23 to support local authorities as they prepare their markets for adult social care reform and to help move towards paying a fair cost of care. The funding made available to councils means overall local

government core spending power can increase by over 4% in real terms in 2022/23, including the investment in Adult Social Care reform.

#### *Council Tax*

This government recognises the importance of high-quality local services and believes in empowering local decision makers to shape thriving communities. This includes ensuring they have the flexibility to generate their own income through council tax, while protecting residents from excessive increases.

I have proposed the following package of referendum principles for 2022/23:

- A core council tax referendum principle of up to 2% for shire counties, unitary authorities, London boroughs, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and fire and rescue authorities.
- A principle of up to 2% or £5, whichever is higher, for shire district councils.
- An Adult Social Care (ASC) precept of 1% for all authorities responsible for ASC.
- The ability to add up to an additional 3% of unused ASC Precept from 2021/22.
- A £5 referendum principle for the 8 lowest-charging fire and rescue authorities.
- A referendum principle of £10 for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), including the GLA charge for the Metropolitan Police and the PCC component of the Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire Mayoral precepts.
- No other council tax referendum principles for Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and no council tax referendum principles for town and parish councils.

The Government's manifesto commits to continuing to protect local taxpayers from excessive council tax increases, and it is for the House of Commons to set an annual threshold at which a council tax referendum is triggered. This is an additional local democratic check and balance to avoid the repeat seen under the last Labour Government when council tax more than doubled.

This package of referendum principles strikes a fair balance. The council tax referendum provisions are not a cap, nor do they force councils to set taxes at the threshold level. Councillors, mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and local councils will rightly want to consider the financial needs of local residents at this challenging point in time, alongside the public's support for action on keeping our streets safe and providing key services.

#### *Stability of Funding*

Through this package we are providing local authorities with a firm foundation for funding throughout 2022/23. This means we are proposing to roll over much of the 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement, including:

- Rolling over the current tax approach to the New Homes Bonus worth £554 million.

- Keeping the Rural Services Delivery Grant at £85 million.
- Maintaining the Lower Tier Services Grant at £111 million with an updated cash terms funding floor.
- Increasing the Revenue Support Grant in line with inflation; an increase of £70 million.
- Continuing with the 100% retention authorities in the five Devolution Deal areas and 67% for Greater London overall.

#### *Updating the System*

Government is committed to ensuring that funding allocations for councils are based on an up-to-date assessment of their needs and resources. The data used to assess this has not been updated in a number of years, dating from 2013-14 to a large degree, and even as far back as 2000. Over the coming months, we will work closely with the sector and other stakeholders to update this and to look at the challenges and opportunities facing the sector before consulting on any potential changes.

As part of this we will look at options to support local authorities through transitional protection. Councils should note the one-off 2022/23 Services Grant provided in the Local Government Finance Settlement in 2022/23 will be excluded from potential transitional protections.

#### *Conclusion*

In outlining these proposals, my priority is to provide stability in the immediate term so I can work closely with local government and other partners on options to update our assessment of local authority needs and resources. I welcome representations from all interested parties on the 4-week consultation we have launched today.

Please see a link to the consultation [here](#).

## **Provisional Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2022-23**

[HLWS489]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Crime and Policing (Kit Malthouse) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

My rt hon Friend the Home Secretary has today published the provisional Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2022/23. The Report sets out the Home Secretary's determination for 2022/23 of the aggregate amount of grants that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996. A copy of the Report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Today the Government is setting out the provisional police funding settlement in Parliament for the 2022/23 financial year. Overall funding for policing will rise by up to £1.1 billion compared to the 2021/22 funding settlement, bringing the total up to £16.9 billion. Within this, funding to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will increase by up to an additional £796 million, assuming full take-up of precept flexibility. This would

represent an increase to PCC funding in cash terms of 5.8% on top of the 2021/22 police funding settlement.[1]

This Government is absolutely committed to keeping the public safe; the police have a critical role to play in this, and in reducing crime. We are determined to strengthen our police service and, by providing a three-year Spending Review settlement, we are giving the police the financial certainty and stability needed for longer-term, strategic reforms. We have confirmed total grant funding for police forces for the next three years, with increases of £550 million in 2022/23, at least £650 million in 2023/24 and no less than £800 million in 2024/25. In addition, PCCs will have up to £10 of precept flexibility in each of the next three years to use according to their local needs.

With this substantial investment, this settlement supports the police to:

- 1) Successfully complete the 20,000 officer Police Uplift Programme by March 2023, building on the outstanding progress to date.
- 2) Accelerate progress on the Government's key policing priorities: reducing crime, ensuring the Criminal Justice System works for all, driving forward improvements in the service the public receive, and transforming critical capabilities and infrastructure.
- 3) Ensure an increase in productivity using enhanced technology and investigative tools. In return for this significant investment, we expect police leaders to become more efficient and effective with officers' time, and in the fight against national threats.

#### *Recruitment*

This Government is delivering on its commitment to recruit 20,000 additional police officers, and the three-year Spending Review settlement gives the police the investment and financial certainty they need for this. We have already invested significantly in increasing the number of police officers, providing £700 million in 2020/21 and a further £425 million in 2021/22. Forces have leaned in to this commitment, and as at the end of September, over 11,000 officers have been recruited, 55% of our 20,000 target. As a result of this policing is more diverse than ever. Since April 2020, more than four in ten new recruits were female and 11.4% identified as belonging to a Black, Asian, Mixed or other minority ethnic groups. Good progress is also being made on deployments into Regional Organised Crime Units. Forces are recruiting officers to support deployments across the policing system, and we expect this growth to be seen over the Spending Review period. Forces must not be complacent in their efforts to ensure policing is open to all in modern Britain and to bring in the best talent from across their local communities.

For 2022/23, PCCs will receive an additional £550 million of government grants which include funding for the recruitment of the final 8,000 additional officers, and continued growth in police staff to support officers, by the end of March 2023. To ensure recruitment is maintained, £135 million of the grant increase will be ringfenced and

allocated in line with funding formula shares. As in previous years, PCCs will be able to access this as they progress towards their recruitment target.

Building on the commitments in the Beating Crime Plan, we are continuing to strengthen capability to confront serious and organised crime, therefore, 425 officers will be deployed into Regional Organised Crime Units and equivalent capability in London. Recruitment allocations for year three of the programme are set out in the tables attached to this statement.

#### *Precept*

Spending Review 2021 confirmed that PCCs will be empowered to raise additional funding through precept flexibility. We propose to enable PCCs to increase their Band D precept by up to £10 in each of the next three years without the need to call for a local referendum, the equivalent of less than £1 per month. If all PCCs decide to maximise their flexibility, this would result in up to £246 million additional funding for local policing next year. It is for locally accountable PCCs to take decisions on local precept.

#### *Counter-terrorism policing*

The Government will continue to provide vital support for counter-terrorism (CT) policing, ensuring they have the resources they need to meet and deal with the threats we face. For the first time, CT police funding will total over £1 billion in 2022/23. This significant investment will aid in supporting the ongoing CT policing investigations to keep the country safe, and includes continued funding for both armed policing and the CT Operations Centre. The funding includes the transfer of £44 million for Special Branch from core PCC budgets to the CT policing grant, protecting local CT assets while providing forces with greater access to specialist expertise and resources to keep our citizens safe from harm.

PCCs will be notified separately of force-level funding allocations for CT policing, which will not be made public for security reasons.

#### *National priorities*

This Government will continue to support PCCs and forces through increased investment in national policing priorities. This settlement provides £1.4 billion for the following national priorities in 2022/23 (as set out at tables 1 and 5):

1) Maintaining our focus on cutting crime to make communities safer, we are continuing to invest in critical priority areas. This includes drugs and county lines activity, violent crime reduction, child sexual abuse and exploitation, fraud, and modern slavery. Next year we will see:

- Further investment in law enforcement intelligence and investigation capacity, taking these capabilities one step closer to intercepting the rise of economic crime.
- Regional Organised Crime Units equipped with the capabilities they need to tackle serious and organised crime and protect the most vulnerable citizens from

abuse, building on the provision of more officers through the Uplift Programme.

- A National Crime Laboratory to drive the use of innovative data science techniques to prevent and reduce crime.

2) This Government recognises that transparency, governance and accountability have a key role to play in building public confidence in the criminal justice system. This settlement will enable us to:

- Fulfil key commitments from the Rape Review, including the expansion of Operation Soteria to additional pilot areas to test innovative ways for the police and CPS to investigate rape cases.

- Deliver on our commitment to ensure that no victim of rape and serious sexual assault is left without a mobile phone for more than 24 hours and explore how we can further exploit technological advancements and new ways of working to improve investigation outcomes.

- Drive improvements in local police performance, including measuring responsiveness to 101 and 999 calls and providing a peer support function through the College of Policing for poor performing forces.

3) We must ensure that there is no place left for criminals to hide that carry out serious and organised crime and rely on sophisticated digital communications to evade detection. That is why this Government will be:

- Investing in a set of critical investigative tools to help deliver the Drugs Supply Attack Plan and support a range of other national priority threats. These tools will provide better-quality intelligence, expand law enforcement's ability to tackle international crime networks, homicide and neighbourhood crime, and boost prosecution rates against high-harm offenders.

- Providing greater investment in tackling fraud and improving the way in which intelligence on firearms is collected and managed.

4) This settlement also includes continued investment in Major Law Enforcement Programmes, and other critical national police and law enforcement IT capabilities. This Government will invest in:

- Strengthening the ability to share, analyse and act on all available intelligence data to counter drugs, county lines and other high harm offences.

- Collaborating with industry to leverage technology in support of safeguarding the vulnerable.

- Simplifying the technological capabilities that are delivered so that they can be easily adopted and exploited by operational users.

The Government expects PCCs to continue to take responsibility for crime outcomes both locally and nationally, and we will support PCCs and forces to deliver well-evidenced crime interventions as part of their core business. The Spending Review has provided £150m of Government funding for crime reduction in each of the

next three years, which will allow the continuation of existing programmes as well as some new investments to prevent crime and keep our communities safe.

We will confirm funding arrangements for specific crime reduction programmes in due course. These will follow a match-funding principle where funding for local intervention is supported via funding allocated to or raised by local leaders. This approach will maximise PCC investment in crime reduction and increase the total funding spent on crime priorities, making our communities safer.

#### *Outcomes and efficiency*

While we continue to invest in policing, it is only right that the Government holds the policing sector, as with other public services, to account on delivering for the public. The police must demonstrate to taxpayers that they are using this funding effectively, meeting the needs of their community and ensuring the public receive the highest possible quality of service.

As part of the Spending Review settlement, the Government will expect to see over £100 million of cashable efficiency savings delivered from force budgets by 2024/25. For 2022/23, we expect to see £80 million of efficiency savings - which have been reflected in the funding set out as part of the settlement.

Ensuring the value of the Government's investment in policing goes beyond efficiencies. Following greater investment in modern technology infrastructure and interoperable systems, we expect to see an increase in productivity. This will enable more efficient data sharing and analysis, reduce the risk of service disruptions, and provide a foundation for future enhancements and innovations. We will continue to work with and support the policing sector through the Efficiency in Policing Board with a renewed focus on improving the measurement and delivery of productivity gains.

This Government has once again set out its commitment to giving the police the resources they need to cut crime and keep the public safe – setting out today how up to an additional £1.1 billion will be invested in the policing system in 2022/23. We will continue to work with policing to achieve the outcomes set out here. I would like to pay tribute and express my sincere gratitude to our police officers and police staff for the extraordinary bravery and dedication they display each day, to keep us all safe from harm.

I have set out in a separate document, attached, the tables illustrating how we propose to allocate the police funding settlement between the different funding streams and between Police and Crime Commissioners for 2022/23. These documents are intended to be read together.

[1] Funding for Special Branch has been transferred from existing PCC baselines and now will go to PCCs through the CT policing grant.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

TABLES [Provisional Police Grant Report 22-23 TABLES.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2021-12-16/HLWS489/>.

## School and Early Years Funding Update

[HLWS495]

**Baroness Barran:** My Honourable Friend the Minister of State for School Standards (Mr Robin Walker), has made the following statement:

Today I am confirming schools, high needs and early years revenue funding allocations for 2022-23. This announcement covers the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the pupil premium, and supplementary funding to allocate an additional £1.6 billion announced at the spending review.

Overall, taking the DSG allocations and the supplementary funding together, core schools funding is increasing by £4 billion in 2022-23 – a 5% increase in real terms per pupil from 2021-22. This includes an increase in mainstream school funding, for the 5-16 age group, of £2.5 billion. This is equivalent to a 5.8%, or £300, cash increase in funding per pupil on average. Every local authority area is forecast to see an above-inflation increase in mainstream school funding, with each local authority seeing at least a 4.7% increase per pupil.

Nationally, high needs funding, including the supplementary funding, is increasing by over £1 billion (13%).

In July 2021, the then Minister of State for Schools informed Parliament of the publication of primary and secondary units of funding for the schools block of the DSG, and the provisional allocations for the high needs block and central school services block. These have now been updated with the latest pupil numbers to show how much each local authority will receive in 2022-23.

For Early Years, we are announcing initial allocations for local authorities of £3.6 billion for 2022-23 based on the Early Years hourly funding rates that were published on 25 November 2021. These initial allocations will be updated later using census data from January 2022 and January 2023.

The DSG also includes funding for the department's safety valve intervention programme, which targets the local authorities with the highest DSG deficits, accumulated where LAs have struggled to manage their high needs systems within their allocated funding. With £150m of additional funding secured through the Spending Review, we are expanding this programme in 2022-23 to target more local authorities with the highest deficits, to rapidly secure the sustainable management of their high needs systems and reduce their deficits. This expansion will sit as part of a new, wider programme of intervention and support for local authorities, including the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme which will provide some support with attached funding to help more local authorities with less substantial deficits to establish sustainable and effective practice in managing

their high needs systems. I will announce further detail about the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme in due course.

In addition to the DSG, mainstream schools will receive a supplementary grant in 2022-23 worth £1.2 billion. For early years and post-16 provision, the grant is being provided in respect of the Health and Social Care Levy. For primary and secondary provision, the grant is being provided in respect of both the Health and Social Care Levy and other cost pressures, giving schools the resources they need to raise attainment, increase teacher pay and continue to rise to the challenges of Covid response and recovery.

Today I am announcing how that supplementary grant will be allocated. Mainstream schools will get:

A lump sum of £3,680 for schools that have primary and/ or secondary provision. (Schools with only early years or post-16 provision will not receive this lump sum.)

£24 per pupil for their early years provision.

£35 per pupil for their post-16 provision.

£97 per pupil in primary.

£137 per pupil in key stage 3.

£155 per pupil in key stage 4.

Additional funding of £85 per primary pupil and £124 per secondary pupil who are recorded as having been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years (FSM6).

The grant rates will be uplifted with area cost adjustments for schools in areas with higher wage costs.

Special schools and other providers funded from the high needs block of the DSG will benefit from an additional £325 million in 2022-23, through a top up to the DSG allocations referred to above. This is an increase of 4% to the allocations announced in July 2021.

This core schools funding comes alongside the Government's investment totalling nearly £5 billion, up to 2024-25, to help children and young people recover from the impact of the pandemic, which includes spending £1.5 billion on a national tutoring revolution in schools and colleges.

#### *Funding for disadvantaged pupils: the Pupil Premium*

The Pupil Premium provides additional funding to schools to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. Today, I am announcing that Pupil Premium rates in 2022-23 will increase by 2.7%, in line with forecast inflation as published by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) at the 2021 Spending Review. This will ensure that this targeted investment continues to support the most disadvantaged children in our schools.

With the increased funding rates, total Pupil Premium funding is forecast to be its highest ever, in cash terms, in 2022-23. Total Pupil Premium funding is forecast to increase to over £2.6 billion in 2022-23 (up from £2.5

billion in 2021-22, and from £600 million when the Pupil Premium was introduced in 2011-12). Funding rates in 2022-23 will be the highest ever in cash terms, with primary pupils who have been eligible for FSM at a point over the past 6 six years attracting £1385, and secondary "FSM6" pupils attracting £985. This means that, compared to when the Pupil Premium was introduced in 2011, funding rates are now almost £900 higher in cash terms for primary FSM6 pupils, and almost £500 higher for secondary pupils. The Department for Education continues to ensure that all schools must have regard to high-quality evidence-based interventions when deciding how best to support eligible pupils.

## UK Anti-Corruption Strategy: Year 3 Update

[HLWS487]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Security and Borders (Damian Hinds) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I am pleased to be publishing the third annual Update to the UK Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-2022 which covers the year 2020. As part of the Strategy, the Government is committed to providing an annual written update to parliament on progress.

It is particularly pertinent that we are publishing this Update as countries are gathering to assess progress with implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption. This serves as a reminder to us all of the need for domestic and international action to address the evolving threat from corruption. This month we also saw the UK join our US partners in their Summit for Democracy, which similarly focuses on actively tackling the corruption challenges at home and abroad.

This Update highlights the progress made against the anti-corruption commitments in 2020 and focuses on a number of key areas:

- securing the public commitment with all Crown Dependencies and inhabited Overseas Territories to implement publicly accessible registers of company beneficial ownership information. This will help strengthen the international effort to counter illicit finance;
- extending the remit of the National Fraud Initiative and helping local authorities to undertake bank account and active company checks;
- reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems to make them more transparent, independent and proportionate;
- securing endorsement from G20 Ministers of a G20 Call to Action for countries to combat corruption in the COVID-19 response and recovery;
- publishing a review of procurement risks in local government that improves understanding and strengthens our response; and

- publishing the Green Paper on procurement reform with specific proposals to further strengthen transparency and integrity across government.

This Update covers activity made against the Government's commitments in the Strategy during 2020. Activity in 2021 will be reported on in the Year 4 Update due to be presented next year.

The year 2020 has been dominated in so many ways by the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenging global environment has required the whole of government to respond to the pandemic focused on public health. Whilst recognising 2020 was a challenging year, this Update provides more details and highlights achievements which have gone beyond the original Strategy commitments as well as an explanation for those off-track commitments.

The Government will continue to implement its Strategy commitments to combat corruption and to promote integrity and transparency at home and overseas. There is still much work to do and it is important to recognise that a number of broader issues are considered as we look ahead. The Government will update

parliament on progress made in 2021 in the fourth annual update due next year and I am pleased also to announce that Government has started to develop the successor to the Strategy which expires at the end of 2022. In addition, a policy statement in response to the *Upholding Standards in Public Life Report* from the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the review into the development and use of Supply Chain Finance in government by Nigel Boardman will be published in due course, in the New Year. Alongside this the Government will be providing an update to its work to reform the Business Appointment Rules.

I have written to the Devolved Administrations as the Update is of direct interest to them.

Finally, I would also like to thank the ongoing work of the Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Champion (the Hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare) throughout this period.

A copy of the Update will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and also published on GOV.UK.

# Written Answers

Thursday, 16 December 2021

## Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine Crowding and its Consequences, published on 18 November, which found that there were 4,519 excess deaths in Emergency Departments in England during 2020–21 as a result of crowding and long stays. [[HL4228](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** No such assessment has been made.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have led detailed operational level winter planning with providers, regions and stakeholders, with actions for systems to support improved emergency care performance and patient flow through hospital, supported by £5.4 billion of additional funding. A new Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Unit will coordinate support for the most challenged systems and £478 million has been allocated for the enhanced patient discharge programme, to increase bed capacity and reduce crowding in accident and emergency departments.

## Banks: Inquiries

Asked by *Lord Sikka*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the European Commission's €344 million fine on UBS, Barclays, RBS, HSBC and Credit Suisse on 2 December for operating a foreign exchange cartel, what plans they have to appoint an independent inquiry into the operations of the UK arms of these banks. [[HL4744](#)]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The UK's independent financial services regulator, the FCA, investigated misconduct in the foreign exchange markets and fined six firms (Citibank, HSBC, JP Morgan, RBS, UBS, and Barclays) a total of £1.4 billion in 2014 and 2015 for failures of systems to control trading practices.

Alongside this, the European Commission opened a competition investigation in 2013, into the same issue, including covering any harm within the UK. In accordance with the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, the EU has continued to be responsible for the case, because it was initiated before the end of the transition period. The EU shall reimburse the UK for its share of the amount of the fine once the fine has become definitive.

## Capital Gains Tax

Asked by *Lord Lee of Trafford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the letter on behalf of the Chancellor to the Office of Tax

Simplification on 30 November, what plans they have, if any (1) to increase capital gains tax rates, (2) to align capital gains tax rates with income tax, or (3) to reduce the annual capital gains tax allowance. [[HL4717](#)]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** As set out in the Government's response to the Office of Tax Simplification's report on Capital Gains Tax on 30 November 2021, such reforms would involve a number of wider policy trade-offs and so careful thought must be given to the impact that they would have on taxpayers, as well as any additional administrative burden on HMRC. The Government will continue to keep the tax system under constant review to ensure it is simple and efficient.

## Children: Protection

Asked by *Lord Walney*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 17 November (HL3974), how many unborn children have been placed on the Child Protection Information sharing system using the pregnant woman's National Health Service number. [[HL4851](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** The information is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

## Clean Steel Fund

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward the Clean Steel Fund, which is due to begin in 2023. [[HL4663](#)]

**Lord Callanan:** As my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State stated in his evidence to the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee on 20 July 2021, the Government is keen to have a more sustainable, long-term approach to the sector. The Department is continuing to work with the sector through the Steel Council to understand how the industry achieves decarbonisation and what support is appropriate and proportionate to assist with that.

## Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by *Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to update Table A in their COVID-19 guidance 'Personal protective equipment (PPE) made in the UK as at 1 December 2020', published on 9 March, to set out the UK-made items of PPE compared to expected demand. [[HL4037](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) made in the UK as at 1 December 2020 reported on the delivery of a specific commitment to ensure that UK Make supply would be sufficient to meet 70% of demand for the coming winter, for all items except gloves, by 1 December 2020. The table referred to reports on that

commitment and confirms that it was met therefore there are no plans to update or modify it. In practice, we found that UK Make supply met 82% of the demand for that period.

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects on public health of levels of face coverings worn on public transport. [HL4498]

**Lord Kamall:** From 30 November, face coverings are mandatory in shops, on public transport and in transport hubs in England. The UK Health Security Agency has reviewed the latest available evidence on the effectiveness of face coverings, which suggests that face coverings reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

The Scientific Advice Group for Emergencies has also reviewed evidence which shows that the effectiveness of face coverings in reducing transmission is dependent on the proportion and frequency of face covering wearing within the population. The wider and more frequent the use, the more likely it is that an infected person will be wearing a face covering when they are sharing an environment with others.

### Coronavirus: Screening

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to set a maximum retail price for PCR COVID-19 tests, in addition to the standards for such tests. [HL4569]

**Lord Kamall:** While there are no plans to introduce a cap on the price of such tests, we are committed to working with private testing providers to reduce the cost of testing.

*Asked by Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 15 November (HL3205), how many companies have had their application to be listed as approved providers of COVID-19 PCR tests rejected; and how many approved providers have been subject to review based on complaints. [HL4768]

**Lord Kamall:** We do not hold data on the number of providers rejected for COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. Accreditation is managed by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Data on the number of providers listed on GOV.UK subject to a review specifically based upon complaints is not held. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) supports private providers by encouraging best practice and improving compliance. The UKHSA conducts regular spot checks to ensure providers have met the conditions for selling COVID-19 tests and are meeting minimum standards.

Where the UKHSA becomes aware that a provider is no longer meeting the minimum standards or that the

provider's activities may risk public safety, it will require the provider to undertake remedial action. The UKHSA may remove a provider's listing whilst remedial action is being undertaken.

### Coronavirus: Vaccination

*Asked by Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the NHS app will (1) record the date a COVID-19 booster vaccine has been administered, and (2) specify the type of COVID-19 vaccine used, with equal prominence to the first and second vaccinations. [HL3855]

**Lord Kamall:** Booster and third dose COVID-19 vaccinations are visible within the NHS COVID Pass through the NHS App and NHS.UK. The record includes information about the vaccine used and the date it was administered. The booster record can be found in the NHS COVID Pass for travel and the domestic pass. Boosters and third doses are displayed first, followed by an individual's first and second vaccinations.

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to monitor (1) immunocompromised patients' antibody levels, and (2) their variation over time, in response to the rollout of the third primary dose vaccination. [HL4489]

**Lord Kamall:** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is monitoring the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccinations in clinical risk groups, including those with immunosuppression. The VirusWatch study monitors antibody response over time following COVID-19 vaccination, including the third primary dose, among individuals with immunosuppression.

As part of the COVID-19 Immunity National Core Study, the UK Research and Innovation OCTAVE study is examining the immune response to COVID-19 vaccines in clinically at-risk groups. This includes vaccine responses in patients with certain immunosuppressed conditions. These analyses will monitor the duration of immunity from COVID-19 vaccination.

*Asked by Lord Moonie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include information from their online guidance Myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination: guidance for healthcare professionals, published 29 November, on consent forms for 12 to 15 year old children. [HL4653]

**Lord Kamall:** The UK Health Security Agency's COVID-19 vaccination consent form for children and young people or parents and carers is part of a suite of materials, including an easy to read patient information leaflet, to assist an individual in making their decision about acceptance of vaccination. There are no plans to include information on the potential risks of the vaccine in the consent form, as this is available in the

accompanying easy-read leaflet and importance is placed on making the consent form as accessible as possible.

### **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence**

*Asked by Baroness Gale*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. [HL4787]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2012, signalling our strong commitment to tackling violence against women and girls. This Government remains committed to ratifying the Convention as soon as possible and this commitment was reiterated in the new Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, published in July.

The Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Ratification of Convention) Act 2017 requires Ministers to publish annual reports on their progress towards being able to ratify the Convention. The fifth such report was published on 1 November and can be found on gov.uk. Once the Government is satisfied that the UK is compliant with the Convention then Ministers will, in line with section 1(3) of the 2017 Act, make a statement to Parliament confirming this and setting out the timetable for ratification.

### **Developing Countries: Debts**

*Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of rising levels of debt in low income countries; and what steps they are taking to help low income countries manage their foreign debt. [HL4729]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The UK recognises the significant debt vulnerabilities faced by many low-income countries, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. That is why support for low-income countries, including on debt, has been a key priority for the UK's G7 Presidency this year and something we have worked closely on with our international partners in the G20.

To deal with immediate debt vulnerabilities, the UK, alongside our G20 and Paris Club partners, agreed the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative. This brings together, for the first time, G20 and Paris Club creditors to coordinate on debt treatments for 73 low-income countries. Under the Common Framework, private creditors will be required to implement debt treatments on

at least as favourable terms as those agreed by official creditors.

The UK is also at the forefront of G7 initiatives on debt transparency, which is a key part of ensuring longer-term debt sustainability. We have improved our own practices by publishing detailed loan-by-loan information of new lending, a position which was also adopted by the G7 in June 2021.

### **Economic Situation: Equality**

*Asked by Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policies of (1) Brazil, (2) France, (3) Denmark, and (4) Bolivia, towards reducing economic inequalities; and what steps they plan to take on the basis of such assessment. [HL4892]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK monitors the economic situation in many countries around the world, including economic inequalities, and related policy measures.

Notwithstanding recent gains, Brazil has one of the world's most unequal income distributions as measured by the Gini index. Since its creation in 2003, Brazil's largest welfare cash-transfer programme, Bolsa Familia, has lifted 3.4 million people out of extreme poverty, and brought 3.2 million above the poverty line. During the pandemic, the Brazilian Government spent approximately 4% of GDP to reach almost 70 million vulnerable citizens with direct cash transfers. It now aims to reform and expand Bolsa Familia. A UK-World Bank project is assessing how emergency aid was provided, and how social protection responses can be improved.

The UK and France work closely across the G7, UN, and elsewhere, to reduce economic inequality around the world. In their bilateral meeting on 12 December, the Foreign Secretary agreed with French Foreign Minister Le Drian on the importance of deepening economic ties with allies, and working together to boost economic growth in low and middle-income countries. As likeminded partners, the UK and Denmark also regularly share best practice on issues of shared interest. The UK recognises Denmark's fiscal equalisation mechanism, which helps reduce economic inequalities between regions.

Bolivia has made significant gains on inequality in the past 20 years, with its Gini index dropping from 61.6 to 41.6. This was in large part due to a commodities boom, which allowed the Government fiscal space to initiate cash transfers to the poorest in society, and increase investment in public infrastructure. The middle class doubled between 2007 and 2017 (from 13.4% to 28.3% of the population), and the poverty rate fell from 64.5% to 39.3%. The UK continues to work with the Bolivian Government on a range of areas, including trade, investment, and tourism.

## Egypt: Christianity

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of freedom of religion and belief for Coptic Christians in Egypt; and whether they have discussed the situation with the government of Egypt. [HL4694]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government of Egypt has stated its commitment to protecting the rights of Coptic Christians and freedom of worship, and the Egyptian constitution contains protection for freedom of religious belief. We have been encouraged by the positive steps the Government of Egypt has taken in recent years, including President Sisi's public commitments, to uphold the rights of minorities and freedom of worship. There has also been a number of protections for freedom of religion enshrined in Egypt's constitution and the Middle East's largest cathedral was opened in Egypt in 2019. The Prime Minister and President Sisi have discussed the importance of protecting freedom of religion and belief, most recently during their meeting in Glasgow on 1 November.

## Electric Scooters: Injuries

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of increases in the number of patients needing surgery following incidents involving e-scooters. [HL4753]

**Lord Kamall:** No such assessment has been made as this data is not collected centrally.

## Embryos

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 16 November (HL3662), how performance of pronuclear transfer in mice might remain a reliable predictor of its efficacy in humans; and to what extent the physiopathological or genetic variation between human patients is greater than the physiological or genetic differences between humans and mice. [HL4696]

**Lord Kamall:** The Department and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority do not hold recent information on whether pronuclear transfer in mice remains a reliable predictor of its efficacy in humans nor on the extent that physiopathological or genetic variation between human patients is greater than the physiological or genetic differences between humans and mice.

## Ferries: Taxation

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much taxation revenue was collected from each of the three cross-

Solent ferry operators in each of the last five years. [HL4699]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** HMRC is bound by a strict duty of confidentiality, as laid down in the Commissioners for Revenue & Customs Act 2005, with respect to all the information it holds. Therefore, HMRC is unable to provide identifiable customer information in connection with its functions.

## General Practitioners: Recruitment

Asked by *Lord Watts*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Kamall on 16 November (HL Deb, cols. 158–160), whether they expect to meet their target to increase the number of GPs by 6000 by 2024. [HL4171]

**Lord Kamall:** While progress against the target to increase the number of doctors in general practice by 6,000 by 2024 has been challenging, we remain committed to increasing the general practitioner (GP) workforce as soon as possible. In September 2021, there were 1,841 more full time equivalent doctors in general practice than September 2019 - a headcount increase of 2,634.

We are working with NHS England and NHS Improvement, Health Education England and the profession to increase recruitment, address the reasons why doctors leave the profession and encourage them to return to practice. We have increased the number of GP training places with 4,000 doctors accepting a place this year, from 2,671 in 2014.

## Hinkley Point C Power Station: China

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 30 June (HL1218), what assessment they have made of the risks of issues at the Taishan nuclear power plant in China delaying the start-up of Hinkley Point C. [HL4665]

**Lord Callanan:** The Government understands that the inspections at Taishan are ongoing. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) remains in contact with the Chinese, French and Finnish regulators on this issue. The ONR will ensure that the developer of Hinkley Point C considers and addresses the learning from Taishan.

## Hospital Wards: Females

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Kamall on 19 October 2021 (HL2901 and HL2902), what plans they have to issue instructions to NHS trusts that women who request accommodation in single-sex wards should not be described or categorised as transphobic; and whether they intend to collect the information specified in

relation to NHS trusts which have directed accusations of transphobia to patients. [HL4595]

**Lord Kamall:** NHS England and NHS Improvement are currently reviewing guidance to ensure that it remains focused on privacy and dignity for all patients. The content of this guidance will be determined through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The Department has no plans to collect information on National Health Service trusts that have allegedly accused women who request accommodation in single-sex wards of transphobia.

### Immigration Controls: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Moylan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to rectify issues with British passport holders whose passports are faulty and cannot be read at e-gates upon arrival at UK airports. [HL4767]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The British passport's electronic chip has been extensively tested to ensure its durability throughout the lifetime of the passport. Additionally, each passport's electronic chip is assessed as part of the personalisation process.

A passport chip inspection may fail at the Border for several reasons. If a fault is identified with an electronic chip that was assessed to have been present when the passport was issued, then it will be replaced at no additional cost.

### Immigration: EU Nationals

*Asked by Lord Green of Deddington*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EU citizens have been granted settled status since the introduction of the EU Settlement Scheme; how many who have been granted pre-settled status will qualify to apply for settled status in each calendar year from 2022 to 2026; and what proportion of applications for settled status from pre-settled status have been granted in the last 12 months. [HL4677]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the 'EU Settlement Scheme Statistics', which can be found on gov.uk.

The latest published information on EUSS applications concluded to 30 September 2021, can be found in tables EUSS\_03\_UK: (EU Settlement Scheme: concluded applications by outcome type and nationality - UK total) and EUSS\_MON, Table 5: (EU Settlement Scheme – Repeat applicants moving from Pre-settled to Settled status), in the Annex.

A person granted pre-settled status under the EUSS can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for this. Applicants who have completed five years' continuous residence, or where other criteria for settled status without

that length of continuous residence are met, are eligible for settled status.

The Home Office cannot assess a person's eligibility for settled status until they make an application to the EUSS, and therefore cannot state how many of those granted pre-settled status or who are yet to apply to the scheme will be eligible for settled status in the period sought.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Annex [eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-30-september-2021.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-03/HL4677>

### Immunosuppression: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the benefits of testing the antibody levels of immunosuppressed or immunocompromised individuals given the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. [HL4722]

**Lord Kamall:** There are currently no plans to implement targeted antibody testing for immunocompromised patients. However, clinicians in the National Health Service can arrange antibody testing based on their assessment of clinical need. Those with a cancer diagnosis may also be able to access free antibody tests through the National Cancer COVID Survey, which aims to assess levels of protection conferred by antibodies following vaccination/infection in cancer patients. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation will continue to review emerging scientific evidence on the use of vaccines in those who are immunocompromised and will update its advice as necessary.

### Immunotherapy

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many challenges have been made to the sub-regional immunoglobulin assessment panels in the last year concerning access to immunoglobulin therapy; and how many decisions have been overturned. [HL4727]

**Lord Kamall:** The information requested is not held centrally. Clinical decision-making information is held by the relevant provider organisation hosting the panels.

### Immunotherapy: Procurement

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have not yet appointed a supplier of immunoglobulin products; and when they expect to have completed the tender process. [HL4764]

*Asked by Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect patients to receive treatment with products made from UK plasma. [HL4765]

**Lord Kamall:** The Department, NHS Blood and Transplant and NHS England and NHS Improvement are working to create a long-term domestic supply of plasma in England which can be used to manufacture immunoglobulins. The tender notice is due to be issued early 2022, with the aim of appointing a fractionator during that year.

The production of medicines is complex and highly regulated and materials and processes must meet rigorous safety and quality standards. Subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, we expect United Kingdom plasma sourced immunoglobulins to be available to National Health Service patients in 2024.

### Iron and Steel: Hydrogen

*Asked by Lord Haworth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support trials of manufacturing steel with hydrogen. [HL4678]

**Lord Callanan:** The Department is working with the steel sector, via the Steel Council, to explore how to create a competitive, sustainable, and low carbon future for the sector. Hydrogen-based steelmaking is one of the technological approaches being examined as part of this process.

The UK steel sector can bid into industrial fuel switching innovation programmes under the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP), which is intended to promote switching away from more carbon-intensive fuel sources.

The Government has also set up the Industrial Decarbonisation and Hydrogen Revenue Support scheme to fund new hydrogen and industrial carbon capture business models. The scheme will be open to businesses across industry, including steel companies.

### Islamic State: British Nationals Abroad

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens who travelled to (1) Iraq, or (2) Syria, to join Islamic State have since returned to the UK; how many such individuals are being monitored by the security services; how often are their social media posts monitored; and how many have been prosecuted. [HL4668]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since 2013 over 900 UK-linked individuals of national security concern have travelled to engage with the Syrian conflict, against the advice of the Foreign Office. Of these, approximately 25% have been killed in the conflict and just under half have returned to the UK.

All of those who have returned have been investigated and the majority have been assessed to pose no, or a low, security risk. As of 2018 there had been around 40 convictions of individuals prosecuted following their return from Syria, for a range of offences either connected to their activities overseas or as a result of subsequent Counter-Terrorism investigations.

It would not be appropriate to comment on ongoing operational activity by the Security Service.

### Marriage: Religion

*Asked by Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 30 November (HL4074), what estimate they have made of the number of British citizens currently united in religious marriages that have (1) not taken place at registered premises, or (2) been recorded as civil marriages. [HL4637]

**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  
10 December 2021

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 30 November (HL4074), what estimate has been made of the number of British citizens currently united in religious marriages that have (1) not taken place at registered premises, or (2) been recorded as civil marriages (HL4637).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing marriage statistics for England and Wales. The most recent year for which marriage statistics are available is for 2018 [1]. National Records Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing marriage statistics for marriages registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

Information about the nationality of individuals is not collected during the marriage registration process. Some information about the nationality of individuals is reported to the General Register Office (GRO) at the marriage notification stage. This information is not provided to the ONS as we only receive marriage registrations data from GRO.

An annual breakdown of the number of religious marriages and civil marriages which took place in England and Wales is available. It is not possible to determine from marriage registrations data if some religious marriages took place at unregistered premises as this information is not recorded during the registration process. It is also not possible to determine how many civil marriages may have been undertaken in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of certain religious denominations prior to having a civil ceremony.

Table 1 provides the total number of religious marriages and civil religious registered in England and Wales for each year for the period 2008 to 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagecohabitationandcivilpartnerships/datasets/marriagesinenglandandwales2013>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

USKA letter [UKSA Letter Response to PQHL4637.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-02/HL4637>

## Metropolitan Police: Electric Scooters

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they plan to have, if any, with the Metropolitan Police following their announced decision not to confiscate illegal e-scooters; and what assessment have they made of the potential extra injuries caused to pedestrians from increased e-scooter criminal usage. [HL4631]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Enforcement of road traffic law is an operational matter for Chief Officers who will take account of local problems and demands. The police are operationally independent of Government. In September 2021, the Government published the factsheet 'Reported road casualties Great Britain: e-scooter factsheet 2020' that, using data collected in 2020, examines the main trends in collisions involving e-scooters and the casualties that were involved. The Government is working with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) to explore options to reduce the illegal e-scooter use. We will continue to support the police to ensure they have the tools needed to enforce road traffic legislation including those relating to electric scooters.

## Mikheil Saakashvili

*Asked by Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Georgia regarding the continued imprisonment of the former President of that country, Mikheil Saakashvili. [HL4866]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** We are following former President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili's arrest and imprisonment closely. Her Majesty's Ambassador to Georgia discussed Mr Saakashvili's detention with the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament on 15 October, and our Deputy Head of Mission highlighted our concerns with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on 11 November. Senior Officials further raised Mr Saakashvili's treatment with

the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 1 December in Tbilisi. We were pleased that Mr Saakashvili ended his hunger strike on 20 November and agreed to receive medical treatment at a military hospital. It is important that Mr Saakashvili receives treatment in line with international human rights standards, and that any further hearings are in line with the rule of law and due process.

We will continue to monitor developments around Mr Saakashvili closely in the future.

## NHS: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the importance of NHS staff having COVID-19 vaccinations; and what steps are they taking in response. [HL3857]

**Lord Kamall:** In response to public consultation, the Government has set out its view that COVID-19 vaccination requirements are important in protecting National Health Service staff, their colleagues and the patients they care for. The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021 will implement vaccination as a condition of deployment for health and wider social care services.

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why all new starters to the NHS do not have to meet the same vaccination conditions as in the social care sector. [HL4570]

**Lord Kamall:** The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) (No.2) Regulations 2021, were laid on 9 November. These draft regulations would amend the previously made care home regulations to ensure a consistent approach to vaccination requirements for new employees deployed to undertake Care Quality Commission regulated activities in health and social care.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward the date for requiring all NHS staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19; and, in particular, to dismiss any staff who have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated but have declined to do so by 25 December. [HL4596]

**Lord Kamall:** The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) (No.2) Regulations 2021 provide for a twelve-week grace period including the time needed for currently unvaccinated workers to receive a complete primary course of vaccine. There are no plans to change this date. We encourage all health and social care workers to receive the vaccine to protect the people they care for, themselves and their colleagues.

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure non-frontline NHS staff who are not subject to mandatory vaccination requirements do not present a COVID-19 infection risk in areas of healthcare settings where patients are present; and which NHS occupations which are deemed to be 'non-frontline' and thus not subject to mandatory vaccination requirements. [HL4597]

**Lord Kamall:** The vaccination requirements apply if a worker has direct face to face contact with service users as part of the provision of a regulated activity. This is not dependent on occupation. Existing measures, communications and guidance for all employees on how to mitigate the risk of transmission in the workplace will continue alongside the regulatory requirements.

### NHS: Negligence

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the costs of clinical negligence. [HL4809]

**Lord Kamall:** In 2017, the National Audit Office identified three areas of rising clinical negligence costs over the previous decade: claim volume, compensation awards and claimant legal costs. However, since then claim volume and claimant legal costs have levelled out, but overall costs have continued to increase due to payments for compensation.

The Department is therefore working with the Ministry of Justice, other Government departments and NHS Resolution to address these issues. This is a complex area and the work is ongoing. In the 2020 Spending Review, the Government committed to publishing a consultation.

*Asked by Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the largest clinical negligence claim that has been paid in England. [HL4810]

**Lord Kamall:** NHS Resolution has advised that the largest clinical negligence claim that has been settled in England was for a capitalised sum of £37 million in November 2019. This was awarded to a young child left brain damaged at birth. It was settled on the basis of payment of a lump sum plus annual periodic payments for the rest of the claimant's life.

### NHS: Protective Clothing

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their response to the Forty-Second report of the Public Accounts Committee 2019–21 on 28 April, what steps they will take to incentivise the NHS Supply Chain to buy PPE which is made in the UK. [HL4035]

**Lord Kamall:** NHS Supply Chain is working with 30 United Kingdom manufacturers to build resilience within the manufacture of personal protective equipment. This also includes addressing innovation, sustainability and fit testing of masks for the National Health Service and social care.

*Asked by Lord Rooker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to purchase UK-made biodegradable PPE products as opposed to single use plastic products. [HL4036]

**Lord Kamall:** The Department has investigated biodegradable personal protective equipment (PPE) from United Kingdom and overseas suppliers. However, waste stream channels from health and social care settings do not facilitate the separation of these products, unless they have been used for non-healthcare functions, such as catering. Most biodegradable products are single use and contribute to the environmental impacts from excessive manufacture, transportation and storage. Therefore, biodegradable products are not the most effective solution for single use health care infected PPE. The Department is exploring reusable products for Type IIR masks, eye protection and transparent masks.

### Olympic Games: Beijing

*Asked by Lord Risby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Team GB about reconsidering participation in the 2022 Winter Olympic games in Beijing. [HL4659]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Although the Government does not support sporting boycotts, athlete participation in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games is a decision for the British Olympic and British Paralympic Associations, who operate independently of the Government.

### Patient Safety Commissioner: Public Appointments

*Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to use consultants in the process of appointing the new Patient Safety Commissioner; and whether they will make any such involvement public. [HL4752]

**Lord Kamall:** We have no plans to use executive search consultants in appointing the Patient Safety Commissioner.

### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

*Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money was allocated to the Places of Worship: protective security funding scheme in each of the years since it

was announced; how much money was spent in each of the years since it was announced; how many applications for funding were received in each of those years; and how many of those applications were successful in full or in part. [HL4789]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme is available in England and Wales. For the 2021/2022 round, £3.5 million was announced. Applications closed on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application in due course.

For the first three years of the scheme £2.4 million was announced over three years; with £800,000 available each year.

For the 2016/2017 round we received 286 eligible applications for funding, of which 53 were successful, and we allocated £435,466.

For the 2017/2018 round we received 57 eligible applications for funding, of which 36 were successful, and we allocated £440,203.

For the 2018/2019 round we received 88 eligible applications for funding, of which 45 were successful, and we allocated £806,281.

For the 2019/2020 round, £1.6 million was announced. We received 376 eligible applications, of which 49 were successful, and we allocated £1,718,763.

For the 2020/2021 round, £3.2 million was announced. We received 243 eligible applications, of which 58 were successful, and we allocated £1,704,237.

All successful applicants to the scheme are deemed as successful in full.

### **Plants: Imports**

*Asked by Baroness Fookes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the horticulture sector to ensure that the delayed introduction of the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) for plant import pre-notification is suitable for the industry's requirements. [HL4638]

**Lord Benyon:** We have regular engagement with key stakeholders and membership groups representing the horticulture sector to understand and manage implications of the introduction of the new Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System (IPAFFS) service. Officials have held a number of IPAFFS briefings and walkthrough sessions during May and June 2021 which received positive and valuable feedback.

The purpose of these sessions has been to introduce the IPAFFS service to trade who may not have had the benefit of seeing it in advance. Further training sessions are planned and will be communicated with trade. Business readiness teams have developed guidance materials and videos to support trade with their transition to the new service, as well as working with the Animal

and Plant Health Agency to answer all of the questions and queries trade have raised about the service.

*Asked by Baroness Fookes*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of delays to the introduction of the Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS) for plant import pre-notification on the horticultural sector. [HL4639]

**Lord Benyon:** The IT systems used to facilitate the prenotification of imports of plants and plant products will be changing, moving from the current PEACH system to a new Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed system (IPAFFS). We are managing the impact on trade by phasing in the introduction of the new IT system in stages. From 1 January 2022, traders who are prenotifying plants and plant products for the first time will be required to do so on the new IPAFFS service. Importers who are using and registered for PEACH should continue to use that system until instructed to move over to IPAFFS.

All existing and new IT services have undergone intense scrutiny and stress testing to ensure they can cope with the increased volumes of plant imports and exports transactions since the end of the transition period. Businesses trading in 'high-priority' plants (those regulated since 1 January 2021) from the EU have joined thousands of other businesses who have successfully used PEACH and eDomero for nearly two decades to trade with non-EU countries.

The Early Adopter phase of the plant health IT service (IPAFFS) started in August 2021. Nominated traders were invited as some of our initial users in this first phase. The wider transition of trade will continue during the rest of 2021. PEACH will continue to be accessible and live throughout this period of transition, as previously agreed with traders.

Officials held a number of IPAFFS briefings and walkthrough sessions throughout May and June 2021 which received positive and valuable feedback. The purpose of these sessions has been to introduce the IPAFFS service to trade who may not have had the benefit of seeing it in advance. Further training sessions are planned and will be communicated with trade. Business readiness teams have developed guidance materials and videos to support trade with their transition to the new service, as well as working with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer all of the questions and queries trade have raised about the service.

### **Russia: Ukraine**

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Russia regarding the UK's and NATO's response to the Russian military build-up near Ukraine's borders and to communicate the danger of further escalation. [HL4874]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** We are deeply concerned by the pattern of Russian military build-ups on the borders of Ukraine and in illegally-annexed Crimea, and we are monitoring the situation closely. We have been clear with Russia that any military incursion into Ukraine would be a strategic mistake and result in severe economic and diplomatic consequences.

The Prime Minister spoke to President Putin on 25 October and again on 13 December. He reaffirmed the UK's support for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and urged the Russian government to de-escalate the situation. The Foreign Secretary met with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on 2 December and delivered these same messages.

British Embassy Moscow have also raised our concerns with the Russian authorities, most recently on 9 December.

### Social Services: Catering

*Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made, if any, of the number of people receiving social care who follow a non-meat diet; and what steps they are taking to ensure that such people are given meat-free meals. [HL4869]

**Lord Kamall:** No estimate has been made of the number of people receiving social care who follow a non-meat diet. Local authorities should facilitate the personalisation of care and support services in line with their duties under the Care Act 2014. This includes encouraging services to enable people to make meaningful choices and to take control over the way their care is planned and delivered, based on their individual needs and what matters most to them. This may include dietary requirements and preferences where appropriate.

### Social Services: Pay

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to boost care worker pay in the short term amid existing staff shortages due to COVID-19. [HL4623]

**Lord Kamall:** The vast majority of care workers are employed by private sector providers who ultimately set their pay and remuneration, independent of central Government.

However, we recognise the challenges that providers and local authorities are currently experiencing in recruiting and retaining social care workers. To provide additional support to the sector over the winter, on 21 October we announced a new £162.5 million Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund. We expect local authorities to work closely with care providers on how this funding is spent, which may include incentive and retention payments.

### Slavery

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 November 2020 (HL10081), what training will be given to decision makers in the Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority; and how this will differ from training for decision makers in the Single Competent Authority. [HL4644]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Home Office (1) staff, and (2) agency staff, are employed (a) full-time, and (b) part-time, to make decisions on trafficking and modern slavery within the (i) Single Competent Authority, and (ii) Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority. [HL4645]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average length of time for a confirmed victim of modern slavery to receive (1) an initial Recovery Needs Assessment Plan, and (2) a decision on a subsequent Recovery Needs Assessment request for ongoing support, between 27 September 2019 and 31 July 2021. [HL4646]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average length of support (1) requested under an initial Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) made after a positive conclusive grounds decision, (2) provided (a) under initial RNAs after a positive conclusive grounds decision, and (b) beyond the 45 days post-NRM move on support, (3) requested in subsequent RNAs following an initial RNA, and (4) provided in subsequent RNAs following an initial RNA, between 27 September 2019 and 31 July 2021. [HL4647]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to footnote 42 of the 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery, published on 25 November, when they will publish the Single Competent Authority data on recovery needs assessments. [HL4648]

*Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish an evaluation of the recovery needs assessment for confirmed victims of modern slavery. [HL4649]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's system for identifying and providing access to support for potential victims of modern slavery.

Potential victims have their individual support needs assessed on entry to the NRM and through contact with their support worker. The Recovery Needs Assessment

(RNA) is conducted after a positive Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision.

The RNA enables support workers to consider whether a victim has any ongoing recovery needs arising from their modern slavery experience.

The information requested on RNA data does not currently form part of the published NRM statistics. The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at gov.uk.

The 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery has recently been published and contains an overview of key RNA trends for the year up to 31 July 2021. This report can also be found on gov.uk. The RNA process is kept under continual internal review. Our approach to victim support will be considered further as part of the 2014 Modern Slavery Strategy review which will be published next year.

There are 251.75 FTE decision makers working in the Single Competent Authority. There are 26.26 decision makers working within the Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority. Both Competent Authorities carry a number of vacancies being filled through recruitment activity.

All decision makers across both Competent Authorities will receive consistent training on NRM decisions, Modern Slavery Discretionary leave decisions (as relevant) and on current statutory guidance. All decision makers will be held to the same standards across the Home Office.

### Strokes: Females

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of cerebral haemorrhage in UK women (1) below 60, and (2) 60 and above, and their link to the (a) Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccination, and (b) Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination. [HL4712]

**Lord Kamall:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has monitored suspected reports of cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis following COVID-19 vaccination. No direct association between reports of cerebral haemorrhage and the AstraZeneca or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines has been identified in women or men aged either above or below 60 years old. However, a review of reports of specific types of blood clot in cerebral veins, occurring with low platelets concluded that a link with AstraZeneca vaccine is likely. Cerebral haemorrhage may occur because of these events. No link has been identified with the Pfizer vaccine.

There is some evidence that the reported incidence rate of these blood clots is slightly higher in females compared to men, although this is not seen across all age groups. A higher reported incidence rate is seen in younger adult age groups following the first dose compared to the older groups at 21.1 per million doses in those aged 18 to 49

years old and 11.0 per million doses in those aged 50 years old and over. There does not appear to be an increased risk following the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. The advice remains that the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccines outweigh the risks for the majority of people.

### Submarines: Iron and Steel

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK last had the steel production capability to supply all the types of steel necessary for the deterrent submarine programme; and what steps they plan to take to re-establish that capability. [HL4664]

**Baroness Goldie:** United Kingdom (UK) submarine steel requirements continue to be sourced by our prime contractors from a range of UK and international suppliers. This reflects the need to source specific grades of steel, not all of which are available in the UK, and ensures competitive procurement in terms of cost, time and quality. The types of steel produced in the UK is a commercial decision for our steel manufacturers.

### Supported Housing: Older People

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the commitments made in People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper, published on 1 December, what plans they have to set out a strategy to increase the supply of supported housing for older people. [HL4823]

**Lord Kamall:** We will continue to incentivise the supply of supported housing for older and disabled people through the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund, with £213 million available over the next three years. This is alongside a new £300 million investment to connect housing with health and care and increase the stock of new supported housing.

We are working closely with stakeholders private and social sectors to inform future cross-Government action to stimulate a specialist housing market that delivers effectively. We will work in partnership with local authorities, housing providers and others to design our new investment and will share further detail with interested parties as this work develops.

### Travel: Coronavirus

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reintroduce pre-departure COVID-19 tests for those travelling to the UK. [HL4624]

**Lord Kamall:** Following a review of the spread of the Omicron variant of concern, from 7 December 2021 all travellers, regardless of vaccination status, are required to take a pre-departure test two days before their departure

to England. This supports our existing measures to protect the United Kingdom against further importation of cases.

*Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make COVID-19 PCR tests free in order to ease the travel expense burden on families. [HL4762]

**Lord Kamall:** We have no plans to provide free tests for international travel. Free National Health Service tests cannot be used for travel in order to preserve testing capacity and protect public health. We are committed to working with private testing providers to reduce the cost of testing. Since international travel testing requirements were introduced, the average cost of a day two polymerase chain reaction test has decreased to £45.

We have also reduced the cost of NHS Test and Trace tests for international arrivals from £88 to £68 for fully vaccinated arrivals and from £170 to £136 for two tests for arrivals who are not fully vaccinated. For United Kingdom residents or individuals with residency rights who would suffer severe financial hardship by paying the full cost of their managed quarantine or testing fees before they travel, hardship arrangements may be available.

*Asked by Lord Tyrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many suppliers of COVID-19 PCR tests for travel are listed on gov.uk. [HL4778]

**Lord Kamall:** As of 9 December, there are 555 providers listed.

### Travel: Quarantine

*Asked by Baroness Sherlock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is available to British residents returning to the UK who face a requirement which had not been in place when they left the UK to quarantine in a hotel on public health grounds but who lack the financial resources to pay for the hotel. [HL4583]

**Lord Kamall:** Where British residents returning to the United Kingdom from a 'red list' country believe they will suffer severe financial hardship as a result of paying the full cost of managed quarantine in advance, they may qualify for hardship arrangements. This includes repayment plans, where the fees are repaid in monthly instalments and in exceptional circumstances, fee reductions and waivers may be granted.

### Type 31 Frigates: Procurement

*Asked by Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many countries have committed to acquiring the Type 31 frigate; how many frigates has each country ordered;

whether the expected level of acquisitions has led to a drop in the unit price; and whether will this affect the in-service dates of ships planned for the Royal Navy. [HL4667]

**Baroness Goldie:** The design of the Type 31 frigate (marketed as Arrowhead 140) has been exported under licence to Indonesia by Babcock International and two vessels will be built in an Indonesian shipyard.

We do not comment on unit pricing for reasons of commercial sensitivity. There will be no impact on in-service dates for the Royal Navy Type 31 frigates.

### UK Border Force: Public Appointments

*Asked by Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the post of director general of Border Force and Immigration Enforcement continues to be vacant. [HL4494]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are in the process of recruitment for a new joint Borders and Enforcement Director General.

In the interim we have appointed two temporary Director Generals for Border Force and Immigration Enforcement.

### Undocumented Migrants: Biometrics

*Asked by Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what biometric details are taken from irregular migrants who arrive in the UK from France by boat; whether such details are taken from all irregular migrants arriving from France by boat; and whether it is possible for the UK immigration authorities to compare these details with records held by EU member states. [HL4652]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** People arriving by small boats across the Channel are subject to stringent checks on arrival in the UK and again as they are processed into the asylum system.

Immediately on arrival, initial identity checks are undertaken for all individuals over the age of five, based on the name given and fingerprints are checked against immigration and Police criminal databases.

Once triaged and moved to appropriate accommodation, arrivals will be subject to additional checks as part of the asylum intake process. This will include identity and biometric enrolment based on fingerprints taken, with details checked against law enforcement, immigration, Police and security databases. There may be some individual cases where these checks are not conducted. It is not possible to check these details against the EU systems to which the UK has access under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement because use of those systems is only permitted for law enforcement, not immigration purposes.

**Vacancies: Productivity**

*Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the relationship between labour shortages in the UK and levels of economic productivity. [[HL4695](#)]

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Labour shortages are a global issue with increases in vacancy levels across advanced economies. In the UK, there are now over 360,000 more vacancies than prior to the pandemic (three months to October 2021 compared to three months to February 2020).

The long-term effects of the pandemic, including current labour shortages, on productivity levels are highly uncertain. The government has implemented policies that aim to reduce long-term economic scarring by protecting jobs and livelihoods.

In their most recent forecast the OBR revised down their estimate of long-term scarring from the pandemic. The OBR noted that "Government schemes to sustain viable jobs and support household incomes through the pandemic have proved remarkably successful."

**West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust**

*Asked by Baroness Thornhill*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the re-development of the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust's plans for improvements at (1) Watford, (2) Hemel Hempstead, and (3) St Albans, have been paused; and so, what are the (a) reasons, and (b) rationale, for this pause. [[HL4815](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** The overall delivery of the new hospital scheme has not been paused. We continue to work with West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and all hospitals in the programme.

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