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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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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Agnew of Oulton	Minister of State, Treasury and Cabinet Office
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Lord Benyon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
Lord Caine	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen	Whip
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Baroness Goldie	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Greenhalgh	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lord Grimstone of Boscobel	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
Lord Kamall	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Baroness Penn	Whip
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Whip
Lord Sharpe of Epsom	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
Lord True	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Lord Wolfson of Tredegar	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Wednesday, 5 January 2022

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

[HLWS505]

Lord Kamall: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State of State for Health and Social Care (Sajid Javid) has made the following statement:

The UK's COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to protect the nation against the virus. In light of the Omicron variant, we have accelerated the deployment of the vaccination programme to make vaccine accessible to all those eligible. Thanks to the remarkable work of the NHS, volunteers, the armed forces and everyone involved in the vaccination programme, more than 34 million boosters and third doses have now been administered in the UK. On Thursday 30 December, we reached the target we set to offer all eligible adults in England a boosters by the end of December. However, our fight against the virus does not stop there and we urge everyone to play their part in protecting the country by taking up the vaccine and booster offer without delay.

Following emerging data on the spread of the Omicron variant and careful consideration of available data, the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published further advice on the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Her Majesty's Government (HMG) has accepted this advice and all four parts of the UK intend to follow the JCVI's advice.

At this time, the JCVI has advised the following[1]:

- 1) A two-dose primary course of Pfizer vaccine should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 who are either in an at-risk group as per the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA's) Green Book or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed.
- 2) Booster vaccination eligibility should be expanded to include all those aged 16 and 17 not already included in an at-risk group, no earlier than three months after completion of their primary course.
- 3) Booster vaccination should be offered to 12 to 15-year-olds who are either in an at-risk group (as per Table 4 of UKHSA's Green Book) or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed. Booster vaccine should be offered no earlier than three months after completion of their primary course.
- 4) Booster vaccination should be offered to those aged 12-15 who are severely immunosuppressed and who have had a third primary dose, no earlier than three months after completion of the third dose.

The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised, in the new year.

The JCVI will continue to review the programme and options for maximising health benefits alongside closely

monitoring the rapidly evolving data on the Omicron variant of concern.

With the vaccine offer opened to those aged 5 to 11 in an at-risk group and deployment of the extended booster vaccine offer, I am now updating the House on the liabilities HMG has taken on in relation to further vaccine supply via this statement and the Departmental Minutes containing a description of the liability undertaken. The agreement to provide indemnity with deployment of further booster doses to the population increases the statutory contingent liability of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Given the urgency with which we required JCVI advice and now deployment, we regret that it has not been possible to provide 14 sitting days' notice to consider these issues in advance of announcing the planned extension to the booster programme in the UK.

Deployment of effective vaccines to eligible groups has been and remains a key part of the Government's strategy to manage COVID-19. Willingness to accept the need for appropriate indemnities to be given to vaccine suppliers has helped to secure access to vaccines, with the expected benefits to public health and the economy alike, much sooner than may have been the case otherwise.

Given the exceptional circumstances we are in, and the terms on which developers have been willing to supply a COVID-19 vaccine, we along with other nations have taken a broad approach to indemnification proportionate to the situation we are in.

Even though the COVID-19 vaccines have been developed at pace, at no point and at no stage of development has safety been bypassed. The MHRA approval for use of the currently deployed vaccines clearly demonstrates that these vaccines have satisfied, in full, all the necessary requirements for safety, effectiveness, and quality. We are providing indemnities in the very unexpected event of any adverse reactions that could not have been foreseen through the robust checks and procedures that have been put in place.

I will update the House in a similar manner as and when other COVID-19 vaccines or additional doses of vaccines already in use in the UK are deployed.

HM Treasury has approved the proposal.

[1] JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination of children and young people: 22 December 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Energy Infrastructure Planning Projects: Suffolk

[HLWS499]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Kwasi Kwarteng) has today made the following statement:

This Statement concerns applications for development consent made under the Planning Act 2008 by East Anglia ONE North Limited and East Anglia TWO

Limited for the construction and operation of the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO Offshore Wind Farms with a maximum capacity of up to 800MW (East Anglia ONE North) and 900MW (East Anglia TWO), with associated infrastructure required to export the electricity to a proposed National Grid substation at Friston in Suffolk.

Under section 107(1) of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State must make a decision on an application within three months of the receipt of the Examining Authority's report unless exercising the power under section 107(3) of the Act to set a new deadline. Where a new deadline is set, the Secretary of State must make a Statement to Parliament to announce it. The deadline for the decision on the East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO applications was 6 January 2022.

I have decided to set a new deadline of no later than 31 March 2022 for deciding this application to allow an opportunity for further information including in respect of protected species and construction flood risk mitigation to be provided and considered.

The decision to set the new deadline for this application is without prejudice to the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent.

Economic and Fiscal Forecast: 23 March 2022

[HLWS500]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: My right honourable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Rishi Sunak) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today I can inform the House that I have asked the Office for Budget Responsibility to produce an economic and fiscal forecast for Wednesday 23 March 2022, as per the Charter for Budget Responsibility. The Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 states that the OBR must produce a forecast on at least two occasions each financial year.

Today I have also laid before Parliament an updated Charter for Budget Responsibility. The updated Charter sets out the new fiscal framework announced at Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021.

The new fiscal rules will allow the government to continue funding first-class public services and drive economic growth through record investment, while ensuring that debt falls over the medium term.

In accordance with the Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011, the Charter was first published in draft on 27 October as it includes modified guidance to the Office for Budget Responsibility. No further changes have been made to the updated Charter since it was published in draft.

A debate and votes in the House of Commons on the updated Charter and the level of the welfare cap will be scheduled in due course.

Government's Skills Revolution

[HLWS506]

Baroness Barran: On 17 December 2021, I announced a package that forms part of the government's skills revolution which will level up more opportunities for everyone and plug skills gaps to boost the economy. Adults and young people across the country will benefit from more high-quality and flexible education and training – levelling up opportunities and supporting more people into higher skilled, higher wage jobs.

A further nine Institutes of Technology were also announced and will join the 12 already up and running. The government's network of Institutes of Technology are unique collaborations between employers, further and higher education providers - backed by £290 million of government funding – that specialise in delivering high-quality Higher Technical Education and training across a range of STEM occupations and industries, in subjects such as advanced manufacturing, digital and cybersecurity, aerospace, automotive engineering and healthcare to train people for technical careers that will plug skills gaps. The new Institutes of Technology, in locations including Blackpool, Derby, Salford and Essex, will help deliver the skilled workforce businesses need and support people of all ages to get better jobs and fulfil their potential. This takes the total to 21 Institutes of Technology, delivering on the government's manifesto commitment.

People looking to upskill or retrain will have access to more than 100 short courses starting from September 2022, lasting between 6 weeks to a year, helping to fit training around their lives. More than 20 universities and colleges will offer the courses in subjects where there are skills shortages such as digital, Net Zero, Education, STEM and Healthcare, and offering an alternative to studying a traditional three-year degree. Student finance will be available to students taking the courses, marking the next step in the development of the government's Lifelong Learning Entitlement which, from 2025, will provide individuals with a loan entitlement to be the equivalent of four years of post-18 education they can use flexibly over their lifetime.

The Office for Students has made awards totalling £128 million to 100 successful further and higher education providers who will lead projects to modernise facilities following the outcomes of the Office for Students' Strategic Priorities Grant 2021/22 capital bidding exercise, with a particular focus on STEM and supporting the disadvantaged. Two examples of successful projects include funding for Nottingham College to create a new Laboratory Science and Innovation Centre to expand their training offer, and funding to Roehampton University to deliver a new Healthcare hub to support more higher technical, apprenticeships and flexible modular training. Details of all the successful projects can be found on the Office for Students' website.

On 17 December 2021, we also opened the bidding for a share of over £150 million from the fourth wave of the T Level Capital Fund, for colleges, schools and sixth forms delivering T Levels. The funding will be used to refurbish buildings and build brand new facilities, including creating training kitchens for catering students, studios for media students, and facilities for agricultural courses such as trainee milking parlours or labs to learn about land science in readiness for students starting courses in September 2023. The fund will also enable providers to buy up to date, industry standard equipment.

A further 12 projects totalling £16 million supported by wave 3 of the T Level Capital Fund were also announced, bringing the total to 77 projects that will provide new buildings and facilities for students studying T Levels from September 2022. Successful projects include Gateway Sixth Form College in Leicester, awarded funding to create a dedicated health suite and a central learning resource space for students, and UTC South Durham, awarded funding to extend their engineering hall, to include two engineering workshops and an IT suite.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget that an extra £1.6 billion would be invested in 16-19 education and training by 2024-25 compared with 2021-22. The Department for Education has published details of how £615 million of that funding will be invested next year, resulting in the per student funding being boosted by over 8% from £4,188 in 2021/22 to £4,542 in 2022/23. This includes funding for an extra 40 hours of education per student to help them catch up on lost learning due to the pandemic. On top of this, funding for high value courses - those that deliver the skills that the country needs and which can lead to higher wages for students - and high cost courses including building and construction will also be increased.

The measures announced on 17 December will help level up opportunities for people and communities across England, and ensuring we have the skilled workforce needed to boost our economy.

Implementation of Statutory Integrated Care Systems

[HLWS504]

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

Since 2018, integrated care systems (ICSs) have been developing more integrated ways of working, bringing together NHS organisations and partners from local government and beyond to plan and provide services around residents' needs as locally as possible. This integrated approach to person-centred care brings together actors in health and social care, alongside local and voluntary partners, to support people to retain their independence, health and wellbeing for longer.

The Health and Care Bill supports the move towards integration by providing measures to put Integrated Care

Systems on a statutory footing through the establishment of Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships. The Bill is currently being considered by Parliament and will soon be subject to line-by-line scrutiny at Committee Stage in the House of Lords. It is essential that Parliament is given sufficient time to properly consider the Bill.

Therefore, subject to the passage of the Bill, NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care have continued to plan for the establishment of the proposed Integrated Care Boards. This includes a joint decision to set a target date for the introduction of statutory Integrated Care Systems in July 2022.

Joint working arrangements have been in place at system level for some time and significant steps have already been taken in preparing for the introduction of statutory Integrated Care Boards, if and when the Bill is enacted. This progress towards the proposed statutory Integrated Care Systems will continue in the new year. The target date for establishment of Integrated Care Boards in July 2022 (which, as indicated earlier, is subject to the successful passage of the Bill) will provide greater certainty to systems and staff that are preparing for statutory Integrated Care Systems. NHS England and Improvement will of course continue to support systems with preparing for the proposed statutory Integrated Care Systems.

Institutes of Technology

[HLWS502]

Baroness Barran: I am pleased to say that on the 17 December we announced the creation of 9 new Institutes of Technology (IoTs) following the conclusion to the wave 2 competition, subject to their proposals being turned in to binding agreements. This brings the number of IoTs across the country to 21. All 9 proposals met our quality standards and having an additional IoT to that which we committed to in our Manifesto will provide even greater geographical coverage.

The Wave 2 competition delivered a range of high-quality proposals demonstrating a keen understanding of learner and employer needs and clear partnership working. They will benefit from up to £120m of government investment to fund industry standard facilities and equipment. I am pleased to announce the lead organisations for the successful proposals and the areas they will cover below:

- Blackpool and The Fylde College (Lancashire LEP area).
- Cheshire College South and West (Cheshire and Warrington LEP area).
- Chichester College Group (Coast to Capital LEP area).
- DN Colleges Group (Sheffield LEP area).
- Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire LEP area).
- Solent University (Solent LEP area).

- South Essex College (South East LEP area).
- University of Derby (D2N2 and Leicestershire LEP areas).
- University of Salford (Greater Manchester LEP area).

Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are collaborations between further education providers, universities and employers, with employers at the heart of decision-making, curriculum development and delivery. They specialise in delivering higher technical education, supporting our aim to reform technical training to help employers get the skilled workforce they need and offer local people rewarding jobs and higher paid long-term careers.

The first wave of 12 Institutes of Technology in areas such as Yorkshire and Humber, the West Midlands, North East, South West and London were backed by £170 million investment to fund industry-standard facilities and equipment; most are already open to learners.

Ministerial Correction HL3362

[HLWS503]

Lord Kamall: I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 2 November 2021, Official Report HL3362 to the noble Lord Alton of Liverpool, was incomplete. The text reflected the incorrect application by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) of restrictions on information publication for reasons of patient confidentiality.

I would like to correct the record as below.

The Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority website about the "limited evidence on risks and success rates" for mitochondrial replacement techniques; how many embryos have been generated to date using each particular technique; how many such embryos have been transferred to patients; how many confirmed pregnancies have resulted since then; and how such outcomes remain consistent with expectations from the scientific review by the HFEA in 2016 about the safety and efficacy of methods to avoid mitochondrial disease through assisted conception.

Reply

The Department of Health and Social Care has not made an assessment of the statement referred to from the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA) website. The statement aims to provide basic information to potential patients and the reference to limited evidence on risks and success rates reflects that this treatment has only been available in the UK for the last few years.

The HFEA has advised that to date it has licensed 24 patients as eligible for mitochondrial donation treatment in the UK. 130 embryos have been produced and 9 embryos transferred during mitochondrial donation treatment. To protect patient confidentiality, information

about whether or not there have been any confirmed pregnancies cannot be disclosed.

No assessment of the safety and efficacy of mitochondrial donation treatment has been made to date as the number of treatments in the UK is so low.

Transport for London Funding Settlement: Extension

[HLWS501]

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

Following my statement to the House on 13 December, I am updating the House on a seven-week extension of the current Transport for London funding settlement that was due to expire on 17 December 2021. The Mayor of London and I have agreed to extend the current settlement to 4 February 2022.

We have thus far supported London with over £4bn funding and these extraordinary funding settlements for Transport for London recognise the reliance of London's transport network on fare revenue, and Government's commitment now and in the future to mitigating loss of fare revenue because of the pandemic. This extension has provided certainty to Transport for London and to Londoners over the Christmas and New Year period whilst also allowing Government and Transport for London to monitor and adapt to the impact of the Omicron variant of the virus.

The extended settlement will continue to support the capital and its transport network – on the same terms as previously agreed - until 4 February, when Government expects there to be a new funding settlement in place. The extension letter also includes amendments to the current settlement relating to fares and the Hammersmith bridge ferry.

On 15 December, the Department for Transport received further information and specificity from the Mayor of London relating to his proposals, set out in his letter of 8 December, to raise new income of between £0.5bn and £1bn in line with the commitment agreed under the June 2021 emergency settlement. The original deadline for this information was 12 November. Following receipt of the Mayor of London's 15 December letter, the Government is satisfied that at this stage he has provided sufficient information on his proposals. We have therefore agreed to extend the current Transport for London Settlement from 17 December 2021 to 4 February 2022 so that Government is able to fully consider these proposals.

The Government is committed to supporting London and the transport network on which it depends, whilst balancing that with supporting the national transport network as a whole.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 5 January 2022

3rd (United Kingdom) Division: Deployment

Asked by *Lord Richards of Herstonceux*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to The Integrated Review 2021, published on 16 March, what will be the level of readiness of the 3rd (UK) Division; and how many days would it take for at least one manoeuvre brigade to be deployed in an operational theatre outside of the European mainland. [HL4844]

Baroness Goldie: The Army is always ready to fulfil the task of protecting the nation and holds various people and units at different readiness, along with the equipment and stocks required to support them, to enable us to compete against our adversaries, tackle threats at source and reassure allies.

I am unable to disclose further details of the level of readiness of the 3rd (UK) Division, as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our Armed Forces.

Academies

Asked by *Lord Lingfield*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is possible for a school in a multi-academy trust to opt by resolution of its governing body to become a stand-alone academy; and, if so, how many such schools have done so in the last three years. [HL5017]

Baroness Barran: It is not possible for a school in a multi academy trust to opt by resolution of its local governing board to become a stand-alone academy

It is possible, however, for an academy to leave a multi academy trust with the mutual agreement of the governing board of the trust and the Secretary of State for Education. Before agreeing to such a move, the Secretary of State for Education would need assurance that it would be in the best interest of all pupils within the trust. However, there have been no recorded instances of this happening during the last 3 years.

Accountancy: Standards

Asked by *Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 7 December (HL4416), whether they consider 17 years a reasonable timescale to produce an accounting standard. [HL4996]

Lord Callanan: I refer the noble Baroness to my previous response to question number HL4416, answered on 7 December 2021.

Adoption Support Fund

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assurances they can offer families who are (1) currently receiving therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund; and (2) who are in the process of applying to receive therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund, that they will be able to access the fund beyond March 2022, and for as long as necessary. [HL4855]

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Berridge on 21 July (HL1838), what assessment they have made of the recommendation in Adoption UK's report Adoption Barometer, published on 29 June, for a ten-year commitment to the Adoption Support Fund in England. [HL4856]

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to announce the allocation of the Adoption Support Fund for March 2022 onwards. [HL4857]

Baroness Barran: Adoption is a priority for this government. The Adoption Support Fund (ASF) plays a vital part in our approach to enabling and stabilising adoptions. Now that the Spending Review has concluded, the department is undertaking the business planning process to finalise the allocation of the departmental budget. The department will announce the conclusion of this planning and what this means for the ASF as soon as possible. As the department has done in previous years, we have committed some funding for the 2022-23 financial year in advance of business planning finalisation. In cases where therapy packages have been agreed and started in the 2021-22 financial year, families will be able to access support beyond March 2022.

The department is aware that the ASF has a significant and positive impact on the families that can access the important support it funds. It is important to get this right for these families and so the department is carefully considering Adoption UK's Adoption Barometer report recommendations. The department is also considering other evidence on the ASF gathered from interested organisations, as we carry the business planning process to finalise the allocation of the departmental budget.

Affordable Housing: Construction

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made as to whether 3D printing represents the future of sustainable and affordable house building. [HL4736]

Lord Greenhalgh: DLUHC shares the cross-Whitehall objective of increasing the use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). MMC provides an important

opportunity to improve the quality of new homes, deliver more energy efficient homes, reduce construction waste, improve productivity and address the shortage in construction skills.

Between 2018 and 2020, the Department convened an MMC Working Group, chaired by industry expert Mark Farmer. The group developed an MMC framework, which defined 7 categories of MMC. Category 4 MMC includes "additive manufacturing," the industrial production name for 3D printing, a computer controlled process that creates three dimensional objects by depositing materials, usually in layers.

We recognise the potential benefits of all types of MMC. Different types of MMC will better support different objectives. Our strategy is to encourage uptake of MMC across the board, ranging from traditional building site productivity improvements to the smaller offsite manufacturers all the way to the high-tech end of the market. In the Affordable Housing Programme (2021-26) we set a target that at least 25% of units delivered through Strategic Partnerships will use MMC.

Our commitment to supporting modern methods of construction has been reconfirmed at the latest spending review, with further funding to be made available to support innovation in the housebuilding sector.

Africa: Travel Restrictions

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the economies of African countries as a result of being placed on the UK's COVID-19 travel red list. [HL4906]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The travel red list was a short term measure which ended at 4am on Wednesday 15th December. Through our bilateral programmes, and the UK's important role working through the International Financial Institutions, we are helping governments and businesses in southern Africa access affordable financing and advice; and establish safety nets to support the most vulnerable.

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they have offered to the governments of (1) South Africa, and (2) other African countries, in view of the economic impact of being placed on the UK's COVID-19 travel red list. [HL4908]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Through our bilateral programmes, and the UK's important role working through the International Financial Institutions, we are helping governments and businesses in both South Africa and across the continent to access affordable financing and advice; and establish safety nets to support the most vulnerable. In April 2021, the UK, with other G20 countries, extended its suspension of debt service repayments for the poorest countries to the end of 2021. The travel red list was a short term measure in direct

response to the latest scientific and medical data showing an increased risk to UK public health. The measures ended at 4am on Wednesday 15th December.

Agriculture: Seasonal Workers

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to announce a new seasonal agricultural workers scheme for 2022; and what plans they have to include the ornamental horticulture production industry in that scheme. [HL4692]

Lord Benyon: Defra is working closely with the Home Office to ensure there is a long-term strategy for the food and farming workforce beyond 2021.

The Government has announced that the seasonal worker visa route will be extended to 2024 to allow overseas workers to come to the UK for up to six months to harvest both edible and ornamental crops. 30,000 visas will be available. This will be kept under review with the potential to increase by 10,000 visas if necessary.

Asked by The Earl of Caithness

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they are taking to avoid crops having to be ploughed in due to a lack of seasonal farm workers. [HL5002]

Lord Benyon: The Government recognises the importance of labour to bringing home the harvest.

Defra continues to work closely with industry and other Government departments to understand labour supply and demand, and to ensure there is a long-term strategy for the food and farming workforce beyond 2021.

The expanded Seasonal Workers Pilot has provided a solution to the unskilled labour needs of the edible horticulture sector through 2021, supporting farmers growing UK fruit and vegetables. This sector of agriculture has the highest dependency on seasonal labour.

The Government has announced that the seasonal worker visa route will be extended to 2024 to allow overseas workers to come to the UK for up to six months to harvest both edible and ornamental crops. 30,000 visas will be available. This will be kept under review with the potential to increase by 10,000 visas if necessary.

In addition, food and farming businesses can continue to rely on EU nationals living in the UK with settled or pre-settled status. Over 5.5 million EU citizens and their families have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Government encourages all sectors to make employment more attractive to UK domestic workers through offering training, careers options, wage increases and to invest in automation technology. To support these efforts, Defra is working with industry and the Department for Work and Pensions to raise awareness of career opportunities in the food and farming sectors among UK workers.

Defra is also leading a Government review of automation in horticulture to improve our understanding of what is required to accelerate the development and uptake of automation technologies in both the edible and ornamental sectors, in England, with the view to reducing the sector's long-term dependency on seasonal migrant labour. The review's final report will be published shortly and will inform a range of policy decisions regarding automation and seasonal labour from 2022 onwards.

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to create a national register of all individuals who (1) have been refused, or (2) had revoked, a licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003. [HL4796]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to create a national register of all individuals who (1) have been refused, or (2) had revoked, a licence issued under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. [HL4798]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has no current plans to create a national register of individuals who have been refused or had a licence revoked under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Animal Welfare

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the animal welfare implications of the shortage of workers in the processed meat sector; and what steps they are taking to address this. [HL4606]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Farmers have reported an overstocking of pigs on farms because of staff shortages in processing plants. This has the potential to lead to welfare issues for pigs on farm, due to overcrowding. The Government has implemented a number of measures to address the backlog and to reduce any on-farm animal welfare implications. Defra is not aware of any animal welfare issues in other meat processing sectors due to a shortage of workers.

The package of measures that Defra has provided to help to alleviate the backlog of pigs on farms and to ease potential welfare implications includes temporary work visas for up to 800 pork butchers and Private Storage Aid (PSA) and Slaughter Incentive Payment (SIP) schemes to facilitate an increase in the throughput of pigs through abattoirs.

Furthermore, in England and Scotland, the two meat levy bodies, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and Quality Meat Scotland, suspended the statutory levy for pig farmers and producers during November 2021.

The Government will continue to monitor the evolving situation and is working closely with the industry through this challenging period.

Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 have been applied each of the last two years. [HL4763]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 ban the commercial third-party sale of puppies and kittens in England. This amendment, also known as Lucy's Law, came into force in April 2020. Any cases of pet dealers attempting to circumvent the ban on third-party sales should be reported to the relevant local authorities, as enforcers of the legislation. Defra does not hold the data for the application of Lucy's Law by local authorities.

Defra recognises that raising awareness of deceitful sellers is another integral step towards tackling low-welfare and illegal supply of puppies. That is why we launched the communications campaign "Petfished" in March 2020 to raise the public's awareness of the consequences of buying from a low-welfare seller and challenging the assumption that it is easy to spot bad practice. The campaign also signposts to resources available to help people make good decisions and source from responsible breeders or rehoming centres in the UK.

Antimicrobials

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of antimicrobials in personal care products on increasing antimicrobial resistance in (1) waterways, and (2) soils; and what plans they have, if any, to reduce these impacts. [HL4926]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government takes antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment seriously, as set out through the cross-Government 20-year vision for AMR and the five-year National Action Plan, which has specific and ambitious commitments. Our aim is to minimise the potential threat of AMR from the dispersal of the drivers for resistance in the environment.

The Environment Agency (EA) has developed a Prioritisation and Early Warning System (PEWS) for chemicals of emerging concern to ensure consideration of the potential risks of emerging chemicals including to surface waters (both freshwater and saline waters), groundwater and soils. The system allows the EA to sift and to screen any chemical substance nominated using, where available, hazard data and environmental

monitoring data to prioritise whether a substance may be a possible chemical of concern in England.

The EA has considered some personal care products as part of PEWS, however, only a sub-set of personal care products have antimicrobial properties. To date the EA has conducted screening on two personal care products with antimicrobial properties to understand the risk that they pose to the environment, but not specifically for the risk that their presence may pose to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The substances in the two personal care products included copper oxide and copper carbonate nanoparticles, and triclosan. The EA takes this information to inform its future work or the work of its partners.

In broader work related to AMR in waterways and soil, the EA and Defra are running a new cross-departmental project called PATH-SAFE which contains a workstream focussed on AMR surveillance in two river catchments. This will strengthen our understanding of AMR in the environment, including the relative importance of different sources, transmission routes and, what the implications are for people, animals, food and ecosystems. The EA sludge strategy which is due to be implemented in 2023 will also consider the impacts of antimicrobial resistance and chemicals on soil health and quality.

Antisemitism

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following reports of intimidation of a group of Jewish youths on Oxford Street, London, on 29 November, what assessment they have made of antisemitism in the UK; and what steps they are taking to address this. [HL5040]

Lord Greenhalgh: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. This year we have provided £14 million to the Protective Security Grant to provide safety for Synagogues and other Jewish Institutions. We are bringing forward the Online Safety Bill to address hatred that manifests online and we will be introducing a new Hate Crime Strategy in 2022.

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to encourage UK media organisations to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism. [HL5041]

Lord Greenhalgh: Antisemitism has no place in our society and this Government remains absolutely committed to tackling it.

We became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016, and we continue to encourage organisations to take this important step in combatting this form of hatred. It is encouraging that, following the Government's encouragement,

organisations such as the Premier League, the Football Association, over 80 universities and over three-quarters of councils have adopted the definition – demonstrating their willingness to support the Jewish community.

We will continue to encourage organisations and combat antisemitism in all its forms.

Armed Conflict: Nuclear Weapons

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the remarks by Lord West of Spithead on 29 November (HL Deb, col 1130) that "the greatest risk to the survival of mankind is not global warming, it is an accidental thermonuclear war". [HL5064]

Baroness Goldie: The UK faces a range of risks as outlined in the Integrated Review published in Spring 2021. Her Majesty's Government is at the forefront of work internationally to champion stability, to deescalate the risk of nuclear conflict, and to enhance mutual trust.

Artificial Intelligence: China

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the China State Council's A Next Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, published on 20 July 2017, in permitting the export of Artificial Intelligence driven devices to the UK. [HL4783]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: HM Government has a comprehensive set of artificial intelligence policies, including our recent National AI Strategy. This strategy will ensure that the UK's AI ecosystem continues to flourish, so that the UK has the continued domestic capability to be a world leader in AI across all sectors.

In the development of our own approach to sectors and technologies, we keep abreast of other international plans and strategies for artificial intelligence, and their implications for the UK. We are committed to getting the national and international governance of AI technologies right in order to encourage innovation and investment, and to protect the public and our fundamental values. Given the UK's strength in AI research, innovation, and governance, we are in a position to make a unique and important contribution to the development of global standards for AI, and to lead thinking in this arena.

We are familiar with China's Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, issued in 2017, but recognise that it does not in isolation represent the entirety of China's AI strategy. We note that China last year imposed its own export restrictions on its domestically generated AI technology. On 8 December 2021 the Secretary of State for International Trade informed Parliament in a written statement about a package of measures to update the export control regime. The recent review concluded that there were anomalies and inconsistencies within the UK's

export control regime, and, as a result, China has been added to the list of those destinations subject to military end-use controls. The updated licensing criteria for strategic export controls apply to all goods, software, and technology which are subject to control for strategic reasons.

Artificial Intelligence: Toys and Games

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of authoritarian regimes using Artificial Intelligence driven smart toys to collect children's data. [HL4781]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Government monitors the scale and nature of data security risks, and will continue to do so. The Government takes its responsibility seriously to ensure that data and their supporting infrastructure are secure and resilient in the face of established, new, and emerging risks, including where artificial intelligence plays a role in data collection.

The Government has supported the building of strong safeguards and enforcement regimes to ensure that personal data are collected and handled responsibly and securely.

Organisations which process the personal data of individuals in the UK must comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Organisations which fail to comply may be investigated by the Information Commissioner's Office and, where appropriate, subject to enforcement action including fines.

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals are currently accommodated in Napier Barracks who indicated in their asylum screening interview or ASF1 form that they are (1) a victim of trafficking, (2) torture, or (3) suffering from mental health problems; and what is the total number of people who have been accommodated in Napier Barracks since April. [HL4898]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All individuals accommodated at Napier meet the suitability criteria. This is assessed via service user's asylum screening interview, ASF1's and any supporting evidence submitted by the service user or their representative.

Individuals considered vulnerable under the Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 regulation 4(3) and/or those who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking are not suitable to be accommodated at Napier. Further suitability criteria can be found at: Allocation of accommodation policy, on gov.uk. Asylum seekers allocated to the accommodation have full access to the advisory services provided by Migrant Help and are able

to raise issues about their suitability to be accommodated at the site.

According to local data held by Clearsprings Ready Homes, 1033 service users have been accommodated at Napier Barracks since 9th of April 2021.

Audit: Standards

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the White Paper Restoring Trust in Audit and Corporate Governance, published in March relies at paragraph 2.2.2 on the Brydon Review of 2019, while (1) the Companies Act 2006 sets out that a company's undistributable reserves include its accumulated unrealised profits, and (2) paragraph 43 of the Financial Reporting Council Bulletin published in March 2020 states that an auditor must undertake "an examination of the relationship between the company's net assets and it's called up share capital and undistributable reserves as stated in the audited balance sheet". [HL4706]

Lord Callanan: There are currently no specific requirements under company law or accounting standards for financial statements to disclose the total amount of profits that are distributable. Some companies do provide these figures, but they are provided on a voluntary basis.

The text quoted in the question relates to the statement an auditor is required to make to a company under section 92 of the Companies Act 2006 when a private company re-registers as a public company. It does not establish a requirement for the company to disclose its undistributable reserves.

The Government White Paper, *Restoring Trust in Audit and Corporate Governance*, set out proposals to require companies, within an agreed scope, to disclose the total amount of reserves that are distributable. The Government will respond to the White Paper consultation in due course.

Avian Influenza

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of (1) the implications for producers and their livelihoods of the current bird flu outbreak, and (2) the availability of poultry for Christmas. [HL4970]

Lord Benyon: Defra's avian influenza disease control measures aim to minimise the economic burden of the outbreak on the food, farming and tourism industries and the wider economy.

The Department works closely with poultry industry stakeholders and the impacts of the avian influenza outbreak are being monitored closely. Where avian influenza is confirmed on a premises, the producer receives compensation for any healthy birds culled for disease control purposes. Compensation is not available for sick birds or those that have died, or for consequential

losses such as lost sales opportunities as a result of movement restrictions. These are well-established arrangements in line with the Animal Health Act 1981 (As amended).

Around 9 million British turkeys are reared for Christmas every year to some of the highest standards in the world. Although the supply of vets, catchers, farm staff and drivers remains a challenge for the poultry industry, recent avian influenza outbreaks at turkey farms are very unlikely to have any detrimental impact on the supply of British turkeys this Christmas.

AWE

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [HL5042]

Baroness Goldie: As confirmed to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defence on July 1 2021 [HCWS142] AWE plc became a Non-Departmental Public Body, wholly owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). That decision followed a review of the AWE governance model which concluded the change in operating model was required to enhance both the MOD and AWE's ability to put in place the skills and facilities required to deliver the Replacement Warhead Programme and deliver value for money to the taxpayer.

Biofuels: Sustainable Development

Asked by Baroness Boycott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Callanan on 13 December (HL Deb, col 2), what are the "strict sustainability criteria" by which biomass operators abide; and whether these criteria allow operators to source wood pellets from virgin forests. [HL4934]

Lord Callanan: The UK has strict sustainability criteria in place for biomass use. For biomass power generation supported under the Renewables Obligation scheme, the sustainability criteria are outlined in Schedules 1, 2, and 3 of the Renewables Obligation Order, which are publicly available on the legislation.gov.uk website.

Asked by Baroness Boycott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Lord Callanan on 13 December (HL Deb, col 3) that the "evidence is independently audited", who undertakes such assessments; what percentage of imports are assessed; and how many independent audits have found that biomass products used have not met the sustainability criteria. [HL4935]

Lord Callanan: The assessments are performed by independent auditors who are qualified to perform

assurance engagements in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE) 3000 (Revised) and the relevant legislation (Article 84(3) of the Renewables Obligation Order 2015).

Annual sustainability audit reports are performed in line with the ISAE 3000 (Revised) standards. The auditor will select a limited assurance sample, taken from all biomass products, based on a risk assessment.

Ofgem publish independently verified information on how generators have reported against the sustainability criteria in their annual biomass datasets and RO annual reports, which can be found on Ofgem's website. The information for Drax in these datasets shows that no instances have been found where fuels at Drax have been reported as unsustainable.

Biofuels: Timber

Asked by Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent of energy production in the UK through burning wood pellets; the supply chain carbon cost of this approach; and the difference in supply chain carbon costs between wood pellets and coal. [HL4805]

Lord Callanan: The use of sustainable biomass for power generation has been shown to have significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions than fossil fuels. Statistics on energy generation from renewable sources including biomass is publicly available on the GOV.UK website. In 2020, around 9% of total electricity generated in the UK was from plant biomass, the majority of which is wood pellets.

Supply chain greenhouse gas emissions data reported as part of compliance with the UK's stringent sustainability criteria under existing renewable energy schemes are available on Ofgem's website.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peace Negotiations

Asked by The Earl of Dundee

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to maintain peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region; and what plans they have to work with Council of Europe member states as part of their efforts. [HL5007]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK takes seriously talk of secession and other threats to undo the progress of the last twenty-six years in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). We have called on those responsible to cease this destabilising and divisive rhetoric. As a UN Security Council and Peace Implementation Council Steering Board member, the UK is committed to upholding the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH. The recent appointment of Sir Stuart Peach as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Western Balkans is

a clear indication of our commitment. The UK works closely with our partners to support BiH's territorial integrity and to maintain the peace stabilisation force (EUFOR) and the Office of the High Representative in BiH. We work closely with various multinational bodies such as the CoE, NATO, OSCE and UN. Ultimately, the authorities in BiH themselves must make necessary reforms for the good of all citizens, and we call on them to meet their obligations to those who elected them. Discussions of how to support stability in BiH took place at the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Riga, which the Foreign Secretary attended, and at Lancaster House on 13 December, when the Foreign Secretary hosted Western Balkans Foreign Ministers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Peacekeeping Operations

*Asked by **The Earl of Dundee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the EU to seek an increase in the size of EUFOR's current mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to achieve enough soldiers to deter secessionist forces in that country. [HL5006]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In November, the UK worked with partners in the United Nations Security Council to secure the EUFOR stabilisation force's mandate for a further 12 months. Although the UK no longer participates in EUFOR following our withdrawal from the European Union, we liaise closely with Commander EUFOR and his team. We also support the NATO HQ in Sarajevo including through the secondment of UK staff officers, who are building the capacity of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces. At the NATO Foreign Minister's Meeting in Riga, the Foreign Secretary called on Allies to enhance NATO's engagement on BiH.

*Asked by **The Earl of Dundee***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage the international community to invite Bosnia and Herzegovina's adjacent states to join NATO interventions, particularly (1) Croatia, and (2) Slovenia. [HL5008]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK remains committed to ensuring peace and upholding international law in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Slovenia is a member of EUFOR, has personnel at NATO HQ in Sarajevo, and contributes to NATO's KFOR mission in Kosovo. Croatia also has military personnel in KFOR. In recent weeks, there have been a range of productive discussions on the Western Balkans in multilateral fora, including at the NATO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Riga, which the Foreign Secretary attended.

Buildings: Insurance

*Asked by **Lord Black of Brentwood***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to request property developers to reimburse leaseholders for any increase in buildings insurance premiums as a result of developers' failures to meet the necessary building and fire safety regulations. [HL4988]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Government is examining what more can be done to protect leaseholders from unnecessary costs. Regarding building insurance, we continue to press insurers to provide market solutions that enable customers to be able to find affordable premiums. Specific insurers have engaged with me over recent months and whilst these have been useful, we believe insurers could be more open to offering cover for new business.

Business: Carbon Emissions

*Asked by **Lord Oates***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks of omitting Scope 3 emissions from Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures reporting; and what plans they have to mandate Scope 3 emissions reporting for UK businesses. [HL4972]

Lord Callanan: In October 2021, the Government laid regulations to require climate-related financial disclosures from certain UK-registered companies. The regulations do not duplicate pre-existing greenhouse gas emission disclosure requirements under Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR), which require large or quoted UK companies and large Limited Liability Partnerships to make disclosures on energy use and emissions in their Annual Reports. Scope 3 emissions reporting is not currently required by either set of regulations.

The discussion around better alignment between SECR and the TCFD recommendations, and the potential to require Scope 3 disclosures formed a part of our UK Government consultation on mandatory climate-related financial disclosures, which concluded in May 2021. Any changes to the SECR regime to require scope 3 disclosures will require a separate consultation process, and would need to take into account the costs and benefits to business of mandatory scope 3 reporting. Any changes would also need to take account of the introduction of the proposed UK Sustainability Disclosures Requirements (SDR) Regime, as set out in Greening Finance: A Roadmap to Sustainable Investment published on 18th October 2021; and the requirements introduced in the June 2021 Procurement Policy Note that require mandatory disclosures of scope 1, scope 2 and a subset of Scope 3 emissions in carbon reduction plans when bidding for major government contracts.

Following COP26, our main ask of business is to join the UN's Race to Zero. Companies with this kitemark commit to cutting emissions across all three scopes in line with a 1.5C pathway, with clear reporting and transparency mechanisms.

Business: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to extend VAT relief, and (2) to reduce business rates, to support businesses implementing the new COVID-19 restrictions. [HL4918]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government has provided over £400 billion of direct support to the economy during this financial year and last which has helped to safeguard jobs, businesses, and public services in every region and nation of the UK through the pandemic.

The reduced rate of VAT for hospitality and tourism has cost over £8 billion and will continue to support businesses until 31 March 2022. There are no plans to extend the length of this relief. Eligible businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors in England will benefit from business rates relief worth over £6 billion in the year 2021-22. All taxes are kept under review, but it is appropriate that the temporary tax reliefs are first reduced, and then removed, in order to strengthen and rebuild the public finances.

Cabinet Office: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their target for answering written correspondence from the general public; and what percentage of answers met that target in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, and (3) 2021. [HL4923]

Lord True: The Government places great importance on the effective and timely handling of correspondence, including from members of the public. The Cabinet Office currently aims to respond to correspondence from members of the public in 20 working days, in line with the [guidance on handling correspondence](#).

The Cabinet Office has responded to: 48% of public correspondence received in 2019 within 20 working days, 82% of public correspondence received in 2020 within 20 working days, and 88% of public correspondence received between 1 January and 31 October 2021 within 20 working days.

Cancer: Health Services

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce an action plan on cancer (1) diagnosis, and (2) treatment; and if they have such plans, when they will be introduced. [HL5055]

Lord Kamall: The Government is committed to the National Health Service (NHS) Long Term Plan which has set out ambitions that, by 2028; the proportion of cancers diagnosed at stages one and two will rise from around 54% now, to 75% of cancer patients; and 55,000 more people each year will survive their cancer for at least five years after diagnosis. It also sets out a series of actions, concerning diagnosis and treatment, for achieving these ambitions.

In March 2021, the NHS published the 2021-22 priorities and operational planning guidance. This sets out the priorities for the NHS, including addressing the shortfall in the number of first cancer treatments, reducing the number of people waiting longer than 62 days for diagnosis and/or treatment and continuing to make progress on Long Term Plan priorities.

Chen Quanguo

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to initiate an investigation into Chen Quanguo, an official of the government of China, under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020. [HL4924]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In March, the UK took coordinated action alongside 29 countries to impose global human rights sanctions on senior officials and an organisation responsible for the egregious human rights violations taking place in Xinjiang. This sent the clearest possible signal of the international community's serious concern and our collective willingness to act. The FCDO keeps all evidence and potential listings under close review, and it is not appropriate to speculate on who may be designated in the future, as to do so could reduce the impact of the designations.

Child Sexual Abuse Independent Panel Inquiry

Asked by Baroness Blackstone

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how, and (2) when, they plan to respond to the report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse Child protection in religious organisations and settings: Investigation Report, published in September; and in particular the recommendations that they should (a) "change the definition of full-time education and bring any setting that is a pupil's primary place of education within the scope of a registered educational setting", and (b) "provide Ofsted with sufficient powers to examine the quality of child protection when it undertakes inspections of suspected unregistered institutions". [HL4990]

Baroness Barran: The department is considering the recommendations made by the report on 'Child Protection in Religious Organisations' from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The government is already

committed to legislating on both matters. We expect to provide the Inquiry with our response within the standard 6 month timeframe.

Children in Care

Asked by Lord Triesman

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been adopted from a care setting (1) in England, and (2) an equivalent form of care outside England, in each year from 2010 to 2020. [HL4775]

Asked by Lord Triesman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the differences to educational entitlements between children adopted from a care setting in England and those adopted from an equivalent form of care outside of England; and what approach, if any, they are taking to address these differences. [HL4776]

Asked by Lord Triesman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have conducted with local authorities about their intention to eliminate differences in educational entitlements between children adopted from a care setting in England and those adopted from an equivalent form of care outside England; and what, if any, results have arisen from these discussions. [HL4777]

Baroness Barran: The department collects and publishes data on the number of children looked after in local authority care in England. The latest figures are published in our annual statistical release here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions>. Information on the number of children looked after who were adopted during the year between 2010 and 2020 is in Table H1: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/9f60e85a-74b8-44b8-7ed5-08d962ee4bef>. This is the first release of data covering the time period of the COVID-19 outbreak. Information on the number of children who have been adopted from a care setting outside England is not collected by the department.

We recognise children adopted from care, including those adopted from care overseas, can remain vulnerable and have high levels of need. We are committed to ensuring they have the support they need to thrive in education.

In September 2018, we introduced new duties on local authority virtual school heads and designated teachers to promote the educational achievement of pupils who are no longer looked after because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangements order. This includes support for children who have been adopted from outside of England.

The school admissions code has recently been amended so that, as of 1 September 2021, children adopted from state care outside of England have the same priority in school admission as children who were previously looked after in England. The school admissions code is available to view here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>.

We recognise that children adopted from outside England and Wales do not currently attract pupil premium plus. The department is aware of this issue and is actively exploring whether pupil premium plus can be extended to these children. In the meantime, schools should support the needs of all pupils, regardless of whether they are eligible to attract pupil premium plus, as support from schools is not contingent on receipt of this funding.

Children: Day Care

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 19 November (75071), what proportion of the £2.4 billion underspend on tax-free childcare since 2017 has been reinvested in other childcare and early education services. [HL4853]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: We have spent over £3.5 billion in each of the past three years on our early education entitlements and the government continues to support families with their childcare costs. The universal 15 hours entitlement, available for every three and four year old, can save parents up to £2,500 per year, and eligible working parents can apply for an additional 15 hours free childcare which can save them up to £5,000 if they use the full 30 hours. 30 hours free childcare was introduced in England in September 2017 and is an entitlement for working parents of three and four year olds, benefitting nearly 330,000 children in January 2021.

In addition to the free early education entitlements, the government offers Tax-Free Childcare for children from 0-11 years old, or up to 16 if disabled. This scheme means that for every £8 parents pay their provider via an online account, the government will pay £2 – up to a maximum contribution of £2,000 per child each year, or £4,000 if disabled. 308,000 families used Tax-Free Childcare for 364,000 children in June 2021.

Parents may also benefit from Universal Credit. Working parents on a low income can get up to 85% of their childcare costs for children under 16 reimbursed through Universal Credit Childcare. This is subject to a monthly limit of £646 for one child or £1,108 for two or more children, payable in arrears.

At SR21, the Government announced a £160 million investment for 2022-23, for local authorities to increase the hourly rate to be paid to early years providers.

Children: Poverty

Asked by *Baroness Primarolo*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the impact of the benefit cap on levels of child poverty. [HL4911]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: It is not possible to produce a robust estimate of the impact of the benefit cap policy on levels of child poverty.

The benefit cap provides a strong work incentive, which reflects our long-term focus of continuing to support parents into, and to progress in, work. Our multi-billion-pound Plan for Jobs, which has recently been expanded by £500 million, will help people across the UK to find work and to boost their wages and prospects.

Official child poverty statistics, covering the period 2020/21 will be published in March 2022, as part of the Department's (a) 'Children In Low Income Families' and (b) 'Households Below Average Income' publications, subject to the usual checks on data quality.

China: Genocide

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Germany about cooperation in pursuit of joint obligations under the Genocide Convention in relation to China. [HL5038]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to lead international efforts to hold China to account for its human rights violations, working closely with international partners, including Germany. For example, close UK co-operation with Germany helped to secure the support of 43 Countries for a statement on Xinjiang at the UN Third Committee in October. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary and German Foreign Minister discussed the situation in Xinjiang with other G7 Foreign and Development Ministers on 11 December.

China: Sanctions

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to ban investment in the Chinese surveillance company SenseTime, and (2) to respond to the call by the government of the USA for such sanctions to be part of a broad effort to unite democracies against authoritarian states. [HL4884]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is committed to upholding human rights, and has serious concerns regarding the Chinese State's use of technologies in ways that violate human rights. On 12 January, the Government announced a series of measures to help ensure that UK organisations are not complicit in the human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang. These measures included strengthening the Overseas Business Risk guidance on China, which advises UK businesses

engaging in joint-research and development activities in the fields of surveillance, biometrics, or tracking technology that they are at heightened risk of facilitating human rights violations due to evidence that invasive surveillance is being used in Xinjiang. It also urges business to consider the risk of exposure to entities that are providing or developing surveillance technologies. The Government continues to work closely with international partners, including the US, to increase pressure on the Chinese authorities to end serious human rights violations in Xinjiang. Most recently, the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in that region with fellow G7 Foreign and Development Ministers on 11 December.

Climate Change: Antarctic

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss with international partners the warnings by scientists working in the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration of the potential for ice shelf failure along the Thwaites Glacier in the next decade. [HL5021]

Lord Callanan: The UK is always seeking to discuss issues with our international partners where appropriate opportunities arise. This is no exception and there is a strong international community involved in monitoring and discussing the risk around the Thwaites Glacier.

In 2018, the UK Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funded the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, a five-year £20million Antarctic research programme and the largest joint project undertaken by the two nations in Antarctica for more than 70 years. This project is aimed at collecting instrument data throughout the glacier and the adjacent ocean, and modelling ice flow and the future of the ice sheet. The collaboration involves around 100 scientists from world-leading research institutes in both the US and UK alongside researchers from South Korea, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand and Finland, who will contribute to the various projects.

The changes that may occur in the vicinity of the grounding line of the Thwaites Glacier in the next decade will not, of themselves, result in a significant change in global sea level. While some computer models predict that such changes may lead to a wider loss of ice to the ocean, these are processes occurring on century timescales. For this reason, the NERC and BAS priority at present is to continue to monitor the Thwaites Glacier with satellite and ground observations, as they are presently undertaking in collaboration with the US.

Colombia: Indigenous Peoples

Asked by *Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the burning of sacred places

belonging indigenous tribes in Columbia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. [HL4950]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The British Government remains concerned about threats against human rights defenders, social leaders and indigenous communities in Colombia. UK ministers and senior officials regularly raise human rights issues, as well as specific cases of concern, with the Colombian Government, and in multilateral fora. Most recently, as the UK's Minister for Europe and Americas, Wendy Morton MP spoke to Vice President Ramírez regarding the human rights situation on a visit to Colombia from 22-24 November.

We also consistently raise our concerns regarding violence against indigenous communities at the UN Security Council, as we did at meetings in July, and on 14 October. We urge the Colombian Government to further integrate its presence in conflict-affected areas, and strengthen the institutions that can investigate and prosecute the criminal actors responsible. We have called on all institutions to heed the early warnings of the Ombudsman's Office to help prevent attacks from happening and protect those at risk.

Through our Conflict, Stability, and Security Fund (CSSF) programme, which has provided £68 million in support of peace agreement implementation, security, and stability in Colombia since 2015, we will continue to prioritise funding interventions to protect human rights defenders, social leaders and indigenous communities.

Community Diagnostic Centres

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many community diagnostic hubs per million people they intend to introduce; and how they intend to ensure that respiratory diagnostic tests will be a core part of their function in all instances. [HL3176]

Lord Kamall: The National Health Service is planning at least 100 community diagnostic centres (CDC) in the next three years, or approximately 1.8 per million population. This is based on the recommendation of Professor Sir Mike Richards' review to establish 165 CDCs or three per million in England.

The core specification for CDCs includes a range of respiratory diagnostics, including lung function testing. In addition, local integrated care systems will be able to supplement these with additional services for respiratory patients according to local need.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many community diagnostic hubs per million people they plan to create; and what steps are they taking to ensure that respiratory diagnostic tests will be a core part of their function. [HL3383]

Lord Kamall: Following the announcement of £2.3 billion of capital investment in diagnostic services in the recent Spending Review, the National Health Service plans to establish at least 100 community diagnostic centres (CDCs) over the next three years, or approximately 1.8 per million people. This is based on the recommendations of Professor Sir Mike Richards' review, which recommended establishing 165 CDCs or three per million people in England.

The core specification for CDCs includes a range of respiratory diagnostics, including lung function testing. In addition, local integrated care systems will be able to supplement these with additional services for respiratory patients according to local needs.

Conversion Therapy: Gender Recognition

Asked by Lord Lipsey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the proposals set out in their consultation document Banning conversion therapy, published on 29 October, whether the ban will apply to attempts made to change a person from being transgender to not being transgender. [HL4896]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We want all LGBT people to be free to be themselves and remain committed to banning conversion therapy. The ban on conversion therapy will protect everyone and will apply to attempts to change a person to or from being transgender.

Under our proposals, people who are transgender or are exploring their transgender status, including under 18s, will remain able to access the support they need from qualified health professionals without change. Parents and teachers will, of course, continue to be able to have conversations with young people or others about whether they are transgender or not. It is important that people are able to have open and explorative conversations that allow them to come to the right decision for themselves.

We will work with the relevant authorities to ensure that our legislative interventions operate effectively.

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Asked by Lord Sikka

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) number, and (2) value, of loans issued under the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme that were made to (a) companies formed within seven days before the loan application, and (b) companies which were dormant and never traded. [HL4743]

Lord Callanan: The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is a delegated scheme and lending decisions were made by the accredited lenders.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to restart the furlough scheme in case more COVID-19 restrictions are implemented. [HL4814]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Throughout the pandemic, the Government has demonstrated that it can respond proportionately to the changing path of the virus and will continue to do so. The Government remains committed to taking whatever action is necessary to protect the NHS from being overwhelmed but, as we have stated, more harmful economic and social restrictions would only be considered as a last resort. Since the start of the pandemic, the Government has a strong track record of responding quickly, flexibly, and comprehensively in supporting jobs, businesses, individuals, and families when needed. As part of our £400 billion package of support, businesses will continue to receive considerable support into Spring 2022, including Recovery Loans until June, business rates relief, protection from eviction, and a VAT reduction until March.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to reintroduce a limited version of the furlough scheme to (1) vulnerable households, and (2) small businesses. [HL5033]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government recognises that the impact of the Omicron variant means some businesses are likely to struggle over the coming weeks. In response, we have announced £1 billion of new grant support for hospitality, leisure and cultural sectors to protect jobs and businesses through this period of uncertainty. We are bolstering our package of existing support with:

- New one-off cash grants of up to £6,000 to support eligible businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors, totalling nearly £700 million.
- Over £100m of new discretionary funding to local authorities to support other impacted businesses, particularly those in the supply chain. This is on top of the circa £250 million that Local Authorities already have available to distribute at their discretion.
- £30 million will be made available through the Culture Recovery Fund, to support theatres, museums and other vital cultural institutions through the temporary disruption this winter.
- The reintroduction of the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS) to help small and medium-sized employers cover the cost of Covid-related sick absences, covering up to two weeks per employee.
- HMRC also stand ready to support any business affected by the coronavirus pandemic through its Time to Pay arrangement. As part of this, businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors in particular will be

offered the option of a short delay, and payment in instalments, on a case by case basis.

This additional funding is on top of the generous and wide-ranging support package already in place, which the Chancellor announced at the Spring and Autumn Budgets. Small and medium-sized businesses can access Government-guaranteed finance through the extended Recovery Loans scheme until next June. Businesses will also be protected from eviction if they are behind on rent on their premises, thanks to the moratorium in place until March 2022.

In addition, business rates relief for eligible retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses in England is available until March 2022. Hospitality and tourism businesses will continue to benefit from a VAT reduction, paying only 12.5 per cent until March 2022.

To support vulnerable households, the Government continues to provide funding to enable local authorities to offer practical and financial support to those who are eligible and require assistance to self-isolate. This includes a £500 Test and Trace Self-Isolation payment available to people on low incomes who are required to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, cannot work from home, and in turn will lose income as a result of self-isolation. In March 2021, the Government increased funding to local authorities for the discretionary scheme to £20 million a month to enable local authorities to widen eligibility criteria and support more people to isolate. The scheme is in place until March 2022.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we are closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the economy. We will continue to respond appropriately and proportionately to the changing path of the virus.

Coronavirus: Crime

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government what facts would influence whether a charge of assault would be brought against a person working in a healthcare environment who knowingly was carrying COVID-19, with or without intention to transmit the virus to another person. [HL4943]

Lord Kamall: National Health Service organisations should consider the specific facts in a case-by-case basis and in accordance with their local disciplinary policy and procedures. Any investigation should establish whether the staff member intentionally, recklessly, carelessly, or negligently put patients and/or other members of staff at risk of infection. This may result in dismissal as the ultimate sanction.

If any internal investigation identifies a criminal offence has been committed, the employing organisation will need to make a referral to the relevant police force. Any charges of assault would be a matter for the police and Civil Court.

Coronavirus: Death

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of people who have died from COVID-19 related conditions at home since the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020. [HL4828]

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

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

The Lord Chidgey

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0PW

15 December 2021

Dear Lord Chidgey,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am replying to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the number of people who have died from COVID-19 related conditions at home since the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020 (HL4828).

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

Cause of death is defined using the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th edition (ICD-10). Deaths involving COVID-19 are defined by the ICD-10 codes U07.1, U07.2, U09.9 and U10.9.

Table 1 provides the total number of deaths registered and deaths involving COVID-19, in all locations and occurring in private homes, in England and Wales between 28 December 2019 and 26 November 2021. Deaths involving COVID-19 includes any death where COVID-19 was a contributory factor to death, not only as the underlying cause of death. These figures are included in our *Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales* release[1].

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Total number of deaths registered [1], and deaths registered involving COVID-19 [2], occurring in all settings and private homes [3], between 28 December 2019 and 26 November 2021, England and Wales

Total deaths in all locations	Total deaths involving COVID-19 [4]	Deaths occurring in private homes	Deaths occurring in private homes involving COVID-19
1,142,940	155,502	319,877	9,333

Source: Office for National Statistics

[1]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregistere dweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/26november2021>

[2] Figures are for deaths registered, rather than deaths occurring. More information can be found in the Impact of registrations delay release: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/impactofregistrat iondelaysonmortalitystatisticsinenglandandwales/latest>

[3] Deaths "involving" a cause refer to deaths that had this cause mentioned anywhere on the death certificate, whether as an underlying cause or not.

[4] Deaths include non-residents.

[5]The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Edition (ICD-10) definitions are as follows: COVID-19 (U07.1, U07.2, U09.9, U10.9).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA's Letter Response to PQHL4828 [UKSA's Letter Response to PQHL4828.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-09/HL4828>

Coronavirus: Loans

Asked by **Lord Sikka**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates they have made of the (1) number, and (2) value, of loans under the various coronavirus schemes which are deemed irrecoverable; and what are the reasons for them being irrecoverable. [HL4742]

Lord Callanan: Estimates can be found in the Department's latest Annual Report and Accounts (copy attached). The Department has set out its estimates of losses expected through the three COVID-19 loan schemes and associated guarantees in note 19 to the accounts. While it is too early to give a definitive view of what the final level of irrecoverable debt will be, early repayment data is encouraging compared against the worst-case scenarios described in some published estimates.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

BEIS Annual Reports and Accounts 2020-21 [BEIS Annual Reports and Accounts 2020-2021.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-06/HL4742>

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what scientific and medical assessments informed their decision to make the wearing of face masks in public places voluntary. [HL3216]

Lord Kamall: Before moving to Step 4 of the Roadmap on 19 July, which changed the requirement to wear face coverings in certain settings from mandatory to voluntary, the Government assessed the evidence of progress against four tests:

- The deployment of the vaccine programme;
- The effectiveness of vaccines in reducing hospitalisations and deaths among those vaccinated;
- The level of infection rates in relation to the pressure on the National Health Service; and
- The risks presented by new variants of concern.

The Joint Biosecurity Centre assessed the data and evidence from a variety of sources against these four tests. COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan, which is available in an online only format, set out a 'plan B' for England, which includes the reintroduction of the legally mandated wearing of face coverings in certain settings.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether face masks produced for the NHS by (1) PestFix, and (2) Ayanda Capital, are compliant with Health and Safety Executive safety standards; whether surgical gowns manufactured by (a) PestFix, and (b) PPEMedpro, meet the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority standards; how much these products cost; what procedures were used for their purchase; and what happened to these products after delivery. [HL4881]

Lord Kamall: Pestfix, Ayanda Capital and PPEMedpro are suppliers and not producers or manufacturers.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency assessed the Type IIR masks supplied by Pestfix and Ayanda and approved the products for release. So far, around 43 million of these masks have been distributed.

Pestfix and Ayanda supplied FFP2 masks with ear loops. This was compliant with the regulatory standard and specifications at the time of contract. It was subsequently determined that ear loops, as opposed to head loops, were not acceptable for use in the National Health Service (NHS). As a result, when the Health and Safety Executive assessed the FFP2 masks supplied by Pestfix and Ayanda, they failed for use in the NHS because they have ear loops rather than head loops. We are looking at making these masks available for overseas markets.

Pestfix and PPEMedpro provided surgical gowns. In both cases these were not approved and no stock was distributed. Whilst the supplies come from different manufacturers all items are "single wrapped sterile surgical gowns", which cannot be used within the United

Kingdom operating theatres, due to sterility concerns around the single wrap. These products could potentially be made available for sale to overseas markets.

Any decisions on individual contracts are regarded as commercially sensitive information, therefore the department is unable to release information in relation to costs and procedures.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the report concerning 47 PPE contracts awarded through a fast-track process; (2) whether this report has been seen by the Health and Safety Executive; (3) if not, why not; and (4) what steps they are taking to prevent contracts being awarded through such a process again. [HL4925]

Lord Kamall: No such report has been produced.

The Government is transforming public procurement following the publication of a Green paper last year. New measures will set out clear arrangements for how procurement should be conducted, including in situations where extreme urgency is a factor.

Asked by Lord Smith of Hindhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 require members' clubs and social clubs to enforce the wearing of masks, while other hospitality venues providing identical activities, such as pubs, are not required to; and why their approach to regulating members' clubs and social clubs has changed from previous COVID-19-related regulations, under which such clubs were not treated differently to pubs and similar hospitality venues. [HL5029]

Lord Kamall: In contrast to previous periods when face-coverings were mandated, they are not required in hospitality settings such as cafes, restaurants and pubs as it is impractical to wear a face-covering whilst eating and drinking. While face coverings are required in settings including community centres, youth centres, members' clubs and social clubs, they are not required in areas where eating and drinking occur.

Social clubs and members' clubs are diverse in the activities they offer rather than solely for eating and drinking. However, where a social club or members' club is providing hospitality, there is a specific exemption for those areas within the premises from the requirement to wear face coverings, which provides consistency with the hospitality sector.

Coronavirus: Quarantine

Asked by Lord De Mauley

To ask Her Majesty's Government why anyone who is self-isolating but has had a negative COVID-19 PCR test is not allowed to leave self-isolation immediately. [HL4955]

Lord Kamall: Anyone notified by NHS Test and Trace or a local authority contact tracer that they have tested positive is legally required to self-isolate. People who have symptoms should self-isolate while they get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate.

Contacts who are fully vaccinated or between the ages of 5 and 18.5 years old do not need to self-isolate. They are instead advised to take daily lateral flow device (LFD) tests for seven days. If they receive a positive result on the LFD test, they should self-isolate and take a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR is positive, they need to self-isolate for 10 days from the test date. If the PCR is negative, they can leave self-isolation but should complete the remaining LFD testing routine.

Unvaccinated contacts of a positive case are legally required to self-isolate if notified by NHS Test and Trace or a local authority contact tracer, unless they are taking part in an approved Workplace Daily Contact Testing (DCT) scheme. If they are not taking part in a Workplace DCT scheme and they choose to get a test, they must continue to self-isolate, even if the result is negative. This is because they could still become infectious.

Coronavirus: Screening

Asked by Lord Tyrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 12 October (HL2767), why the direct costs of an at-home PCR test are commercially sensitive. [HL5036]

Lord Kamall: The direct cost of an NHS Test and Trace polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is commercially sensitive as the release of this information would be detrimental in future negotiations with individual suppliers of PCR tests.

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Asked by Viscount Stansgate

To ask Her Majesty's Government when COVID-19 booster vaccines will be recorded in the Covid Pass within the NHS app. [HL4050]

Lord Kamall: The NHS COVID Pass can now be used to demonstrate proof of a booster or third dose for outbound international travel. This is visible through the NHS App and NHS.UK within the NHS COVID Pass for Travel.

Asked by The Earl of Leicester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Scottish Government to ensure that people who have had one COVID-19 vaccine administered in England and one in Scotland are recognised in Scotland as being fully vaccinated; and what plans they have to ensure that people who have had one COVID-19 vaccine administered in England

and one in Scotland are recognised in England as being fully vaccinated. [HL4137]

Lord Kamall: Discussions at official and ministerial level have taken place with the Scottish Government. Following these discussions, NHS Digital has established live bi-directional data flows between England and Scotland which updates both the general practitioner (GP) record and NHS COVID Pass status. Before a NHS COVID Pass can be issued, both doses must be recorded.

Interoperable digital and non-digital solutions are now available in each United Kingdom nation. The service an individual accesses depends on where their GP is registered.

Asked by The Earl of Leicester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to recognise full COVID-19 vaccination status for British citizens who have had one COVID-19 vaccination administered in England and the other vaccination administered abroad. [HL4138]

Lord Kamall: A service has been in place since 11 October for individuals residing in England who received one or more Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Moderna and Janssen vaccines in the United States of America, the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Australia or Canada to record their vaccination in the National Immunisation Management Service (NIMS). If they have received one vaccination overseas of a two-dose course, they will be offered a second dose of a Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency-approved equivalent vaccine. Once an individual has a NIMS record, they can access a NHS COVID Pass.

The service currently has seven sites capable of reviewing vaccination evidence, with 13 additional sites pending. Further expansion of the service is planned in due course.

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) governments in Europe, and (2) governments in other countries, regarding the compatibility of COVID-19 vaccination records for the purposes of travel. [HL4184]

Lord Kamall: We have engaged with Governments in countries where certification has been introduced to determine the compatibility with the United Kingdom's COVID 19 vaccination records and entry requirements. In addition, following discussions with the European Union, the UK's certification solution has now been linked with the EU Digital COVID Certificate.

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have of the decision by the government of Switzerland to pass their contracted doses of the Moderna vaccine to the COVAX scheme; and what plans they have, if any, to do the same. [HL4673]

Lord Callanan: Continued collective global efforts will be crucial to address vaccine inequities. The UK has worked from the start of the pandemic to support equitable access, helping to establish a COVAX to support both higher- and lower-income countries secure the vaccines they need. We invested approximately £71 million to help COVAX secure early supply deals with manufacturers and donated £548 million to the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment to support the procurement of vaccines for lower and middle-income economies, making the UK one of the earliest and largest COVAX donors.

The UK Government through Vaccines Taskforce proactively manages its vaccine supply so that all procured doses are either used rapidly by our domestic programme or shared internationally. This is as per our commitment at the G7 to donate 100 million doses by the end of June 2022, with 30m by the end of 2021.

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to withdraw vaccines promised to the COVAX scheme to supply the UK's vaccine booster programme; and what assessment they have made of the effect of such a step on the COVAX scheme. [HL4675]

Lord Callanan: We have already secured the doses we need for everyone in the UK who requires a booster this Autumn/Winter. The UK has an excellent track record in securing steady supply and delivery of Covid-19 vaccines. We are in regular contact with the vaccine manufacturers and are confident in our vaccine supplies for our domestic vaccination programmes.

Our G7 commitment to share 100m doses to those countries that most need them and to split this 80/20 between COVAX and bilateral donations still stands. We have set out how we will meet 70% of this target and are confident in meeting 30m by the end of 2021 as per our announcement at the G20 on 30 October.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether housebound patients are receiving COVID-19 vaccinations in the same timeframe as those who are able to visit vaccination centres in person; and, if not, what is the average delay. [HL4713]

Lord Kamall: The information is not held centrally in the format requested.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of calls by the President of the United States and NGOs to waive intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines. [HL4715]

Lord Callanan: Intellectual Property rights have been critical in underpinning innovators' confidence to form over 300 partnerships - an unprecedented number - which have made real, positive impacts on vaccine delivery;

examples include AstraZeneca and the Serum Institute of India, and Pfizer-BioNTech and BIOVAC in South Africa. These examples show what is possible when the right partners work together and share technology.

While we must continue to ensure vaccine production needs are met globally, the WHO news release of 7 October made it clear that, "With global vaccine production now at nearly 1.5 billion doses per month, there is sufficient vaccine from a supply perspective to achieve global vaccination targets". We must therefore also focus on issues of distribution and delivery to successfully vaccinate the globe.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce new COVID-19 booster jabs every six to nine months to respond to new strains. [HL4771]

Lord Kamall: At present, it is not known whether recurrent COVID-19 boosters will be required in the long term or to tackle new strains as more data is required. We will continue to be informed by the independent expert advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The JCVI will review the available data on the durability of protection from the vaccines against severe COVID-19 infection in all age groups and will develop further advice in due course.

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government which manufacturers are supplying COVID-19 vaccines for the current booster campaign in the UK; and what proportion of the campaign total has been supplied by each provider. [HL4834]

Lord Callanan: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that the Pfizer vaccine and a half dose of the Moderna vaccine can be offered as the third booster dose, irrespective of which vaccine someone has received as their primary course. Where mRNA vaccines cannot be offered e.g. due to contraindication, vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine may be considered for those who received AstraZeneca vaccine in their primary course.

Individual developers are responsible for organising supply from different supply chains to customers. In line with existing MHRA approved production procedures we expect these doses to come from various manufacturers based in different European countries. The overall number of vaccinations is publicly available and updated weekly, however the proportion supplied by each provider is commercially sensitive.

Asked by Lord Cooper of Windrush

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the NHS app will record COVID-19 vaccinations administered to UK citizens while working or studying in EU member states. [HL4949]

Lord Kamall: English residents who have received vaccinations overseas, including in European Union

Member States, can now have their vaccination details recorded in the National Health Service vaccine database. Individuals can then generate an NHS COVID Pass for domestic use and international travel if they meet certain certification requirements.

*Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they had with the professional bodies for (1) pharmacists, and (2) GPs, prior to the appeal for eligible adults to come forward for their booster vaccinations on 12 December; and when they expect the NHS vaccination programme to be operating at maximum capacity. [HL5018]

Lord Kamall: NHS England and NHS Improvement have regular discussions with the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and community pharmacy stakeholders, including the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. These bodies were contacted prior to the announcement of 12 December.

Whilst no specific date was set for the vaccination programme to be operating at full capacity, NHS England and NHS Improvement asked health systems to work partners, including local authorities, other public sector organisations and the voluntary and community sector, to maximise delivery during December 2021 and early 2022. This is to ensure every eligible adult over the age of 18 years old has been offered a booster vaccination by 31 December 2021.

As of 19 December, three-quarters of eligible people in England over 40 years old and more than four fifths of people over 50 years old had received a booster dose, with approximately four million doses administered in England.

*Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake in at-risk groups. [HL5025]

Lord Kamall: On 16 December, the Government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that pregnant women of any age should be prioritised for COVID-19 vaccination. Pregnant women are included in priority group six, alongside adults under the age of 65 years old who have long term health conditions. We have provided vaccine toolkits for local services, stakeholders, partners and employers to address concerns on pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility. We have shared case stories of women of childbearing age who received the COVID-19 vaccine before, during or after pregnancy to reassure women who may still be concerned. NHS England and NHS Improvement are working with regional teams and providers to ensure that advice on vaccination in pregnancy, including the risks and benefits of vaccination to pregnant women, is being offered in antenatal services and primary care settings.

We are providing resources and additional information to charities and patient organisations representing those living with severely compromised immune systems to share with their members and followers. NHS England and NHS Improvement are developing tailored communications for specialists caring for each group of eligible patients within the immunosuppressed cohort. This will include template referral letters for clinicians to signpost patients for vaccination. We have enabled patients with a weakened immune system to receive a third dose from a walk-in site if they have received a referral letter from their general practitioner or hospital doctor, they are aged 12 years old or over and eight weeks has elapsed since their second dose.

We are also ensuring that people with learning disabilities and autism can have reasonable adjustments made within the vaccination programme. This includes training resources for vaccination teams, accessible information such as an easy read vaccination invitation letter and consent form and a film on the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Asked by **Lord McColl of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that only two vaccination centres in England offer services to add overseas vaccines to the NHS COVID Pass. [HL5048]

Lord Kamall: The Department does not recognise the reported figures. Currently, 17 sites are capable of recording overseas vaccinations into the National Immunisation Management System. There is at least one site in each of the seven National Health Service regions in England.

The number of vaccination centres offering this service in England is currently limited due to the rapid expansion of the booster programme. The list of vaccination centres offering this service will be expanded in due course.

*Asked by **Lord McColl of Dulwich***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients do not have access to a vaccination centre within 20 miles; and what assessment they have made of the impact of proximity to a vaccination centre on vaccine uptake. [HL5049]

Lord Kamall: 99% of the population in England live within 10 miles of at least one COVID-19 vaccination site. UK-wide data is not held centrally.

The Department is continuously monitoring COVID-19 vaccine uptake and assessing ways to increase it further – with accessibility being a key driver. To support vaccine deployment and minimise inequalities in uptake, NHS England and NHS Improvement have developed practical guidance for communities to implement a range of interventions to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

To ensure that uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine is maximised, there are now more sites in England delivering COVID-19 vaccines than at any other point in

the programme, with around 3000 in total. This includes delivery through hospital hubs, vaccination centres, mobile/pop-up facilities, Primary Care Network-led sites, and community pharmacy-led sites. The network of vaccination sites has been designed to deliver the expected vaccine supply as quickly as possible and ensure safe and easy access for the whole population. For those in highly rural areas, where a vaccination site may be more difficult to reach there is a standard operating procedure for roving and other mobile delivery models to go directly to these communities.

Council Tax: 10 Downing Street and 11 Downing Street

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the band for council tax payable for the apartments occupied by (1) the Prime Minister, and (2) the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in Downing Street; and what are the council tax charges payable for each apartment. [HL4944]

Lord Greenhalgh: The Valuation Office Agency's "Check your council tax band" online service shows that there are two properties liable for council tax on Downing Street. Both properties are in band H. Council tax decisions are taken by local authorities, but information published by Westminster City Council shows that the band H charge for 2021-22 is £1655.12, including the precept for the Greater London Authority.

Courts

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide extra Nightingale court capacity in order to address the backlog of legal cases. [HL4811]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: As part of the Spending Review we announced that we will be investing £477 million in the Criminal Justice System over the next three years. This will help to meet the increased demand from the additional police officers, reduce the backlog and deliver the swift access to justice that victims deserve.

Analysis suggests this new investment could both improve waiting times and significantly reduce the number of outstanding cases by the end of the spending review period, ensuring that we do right by victims of crime.

The Ministry of Justice and HM Courts and Tribunals Service are working together to determine the optimal allocation of funding secured at the Spending Review for 2022/23 and beyond, including the spend on physical capacity to support the continuing recovery of court performance. This process is set to conclude in early 2022.

Our decisive action in the courts kept justice moving during the pandemic.

We allocated over a quarter of a billion pounds to support recovery in the last financial year, making court buildings safe, rolling out new technology for remote hearings, recruiting additional staff, and opening Nightingale courtrooms, including retaining 32 Crown jury courtrooms until the end of March 2022.

These measures are already working. The caseload in the Crown court has stabilised at around 60,000 cases, and we are listing over a thousand cases each week.

Crime: Drugs

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further steps they will take to stop the criminal drug trade within the UK. [HL4760]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Drugs devastate lives, ruin families and damage communities. This Government is determined to tackle this threat and that is why we published a ten-year Strategy to combat illicit drugs. This Strategy sets out a whole system approach of how the Government is doing more than ever to cut off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs and give people with a drug addiction a route to a productive and drug-free life reducing the recreational use of drugs.

Underpinned by significant investment, we will reduce drug-related crimes, deaths, harms and overall drug use. This includes £300m of dedicated investment from the Home Office over the next three years to drive work on tackling drug supply.

The strategy is on the gov.uk page.

Crimes of Violence: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Campbell-Savours

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person knowing that they are carrying COVID-19, and knowing that they may be at risk of transmitting the virus to another person with or without the intention to cause harm, could be charged with assault. [HL4942]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Self-isolation is a vitally important weapon in the battle against the spread of the virus, it ensures that friends, family, community, and NHS are protected. Therefore, a new legal duty was introduced in September 2020 requiring a person in England to self-isolate for 10 days if they tested positive for the COVID-19.

To increase compliance and ensure our domestic self-isolation regime is effective failure to self-isolate can result in an FPN of £1000 for the first offence. This increases to £2000 for a second offence, £4000 for a third offence and £10,000 for a fourth and any subsequent offence. Failure to pay a Domestic Self-Isolation Fixed Penalty Notice can be subject to criminal proceedings.

There may be some circumstances where someone could be charged with assault by risking harm to others in

passing on COVID-19 but such charging decisions would be for the Crown Prosecution Service to consider.

Culture Recovery Fund

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will use the Cultural Recovery Fund to support businesses implementing COVID-19 certification. [HL4947]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Government's unprecedented £2 billion Culture Recovery Fund has now given out £1.5 billion of support to around 5,000 organisations and venues in grants and loans, ensuring the survival of organisations facing financial challenges. The Culture Recovery Fund has supported successful applicants with costs associated with operating in a manner compliant with Covid regulations.

The £300 million third round of the Fund is still open for applications, providing vital ongoing support for the cultural, heritage, and creative sectors. We will keep the delivery of the programme under active review and consider how best to adapt it in line with the needs of the sector.

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the introduction of Plan B COVID-19 restrictions, whether they will consider implementing a fourth round of the Culture Recovery Fund to support businesses implementing COVID-19 certification. [HL4965]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The £300 million third round of the Culture Recovery Fund is still open for applications, providing vital ongoing support for the cultural, heritage, and creative sectors.

The unprecedented £2 billion Culture Recovery Fund has been able to support successful applicants with costs associated with operating in a manner compliant with Covid regulations.

Under current plans, the £300 million announced at the 2021 Spring Budget is the final round of the Culture Recovery Fund. We will keep the delivery of the programme under active review and consider how best to adapt it in line with the needs of the sector.

Culture: Tickets

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will (1) cancel, or (2) delay, the planned VAT rise on culture tickets, given the COVID-19 Plan B restrictions. [HL4946]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the introduction of Plan B COVID-19 restrictions, whether they will cancel the planned VAT rise on cultural exhibition and event tickets. [HL4964]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The temporary reduced rate of VAT was introduced on 15 July 2020 to support the cash flow and viability of around 150,000 businesses and protect over 2.4 million jobs in the hospitality and tourism sectors. As announced at Spring Budget 2021, the Government extended the 5 per cent temporary reduced rate of VAT for the tourism and hospitality sectors until the end of September. On 1 October 2021, a new reduced rate of 12.5 per cent was introduced for these goods and services to help ease affected businesses back to the standard rate. This new rate will end on 31 March 2022.

All taxes are kept under review, but there are no plans to extend the 12.5 per cent reduced rate of VAT. This relief has cost over £8 billion. Applying a reduced rate of VAT for a longer period would impose additional pressure on the public finances, to which VAT makes a significant contribution.

Cycleways: Greater London

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 4 November (HL Deb, col 1340), what funding they have provided for cycle lanes to each local authority in each of the last five years. [HL5014]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: On 7 February 2020, the Department published a detailed breakdown of annual investment in cycling and walking from 2016/17 to 2018/19 alongside the first report on progress made towards delivering the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). This includes information on how much funding each local authority received over that period. Copies of the report and other associated information are available on GOV.UK. An update including a detailed breakdown of annual investment in 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be published in due course. In the meantime, local authority allocations under the Active Travel Fund in 2020/21 are published on the Department for Transport's website.

Debts

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of increasing levels of debt in low-income families; and what steps they are taking to help such families manage their debt. [HL4758]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Government regularly monitors trends in household debt levels in order to inform its policy making to help people manage their money well and access support if they need to get their finances back on track. It does so by working closely with the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and engages regularly with a range of other stakeholders on their research and findings.

The latest findings from the FCA's biennial Financial Lives Survey were published in February 2021 and

showed that between March and October 2020, the number of people with low financial resilience increased by 3.5 million, from 10.7 million to 14.2 million. MaPS monitors financial difficulty through the Debt Need Survey of approximately 22,000 people, with data on regional levels of over-indebtedness last published in 2018. MaPS will publish the results of the 2021 Debt Need Survey early next year.

The Government is strongly committed to supporting the financial wellbeing of the most vulnerable in society, and to tackling problem debt. This is why the Government put in place an unprecedented package of support to help people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the Government recognises that the full impact of the pandemic on people's personal finances is still unfolding and that some require extra support at this challenging time. To help people in problem debt get their finances back on track, the Government agreed to maintain record levels of funding for free-to-consumer debt advice in England in 2021-22, bringing this year's debt advice budget for MaPS to £94.6 million. This is a more than 70% increase since 2019-20 to help more people who are struggling with their finances during the pandemic.

In addition to this, the Breathing Space scheme launched in England and Wales, offering people in problem debt a pause of up to 60 days on most enforcement action, interest, fees and charges, and encouraging them to seek professional debt advice.

The Government has also changed the existing monetary eligibility limits for a Debt Relief Order in England and Wales; increasing the value of assets that a debtor can hold, the level of surplus income received and the total debt allowable. This will give more people with low levels of assets and low income who are in problem debt access to a suitable and proportionate solution.

Debts: Developing Countries

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss a new debt relief programme at the G20 level, so that developing countries do not have to delay health and poverty reduction plans. [HL4794]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In 2020 the G20 and Paris Club agreed to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) which has provided participating countries with fiscal space to respond to the pandemic, freeing up resources to fund social, health and economic measures. Preliminary estimates suggest the DSSI has suspended over \$12.7 billion in debt service repayments.

In addition, to deliver a longer-term, more sustainable approach to dealing with debt vulnerabilities the UK and its G20 partners are now focusing their attention on the Common Framework for Debt Treatments. Agreed in 2020, the Common Framework was a landmark achievement for the G20. It commits both new lenders and more traditional lenders in the Paris Club to

coordinated debt treatments, including debt cancellation if required. This should pave the way for more equitable and effective case-by-case restructurings for low-income countries.

Department of Health and Social Care: Written Questions

Asked by Lord Watts

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to answer the Written Questions tabled by Lord Watts on 17 November (HL4171, HL4172 and HL4173). [HL4921]

Lord Kamall: We responded to the noble Lord's questions on 16 December and 29 December respectively.

Asked by Lord Tyrrie

To ask the Leader of the House, further to the statistics in House of Lords Business on Thursday 16 December which show that the Department of Health and Social Care had 56 written parliamentary questions that had not been answered in 10 working days, more than any other department, what discussions she has had with the department about improving their responsiveness to parliamentary scrutiny through Questions for Written Answer. [HL5071]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As Leader of the House I take very seriously the responsibility incumbent on all Ministers and departments to provide full, timely and comprehensive answers to Questions for Written Answers. The Department for Health and Social Care received 1206 QWAs in 2021 compared to 599 in 2019, and have doubled the size of the relevant team to deal with the increased work and pressure.

My office approach departments who have not responded to questions after 10 working days, and remain in contact with them until the questions are answered. This process has been followed with the Department of Health and Social Care, and my office will continue to work with the department during this busy period to ensure prompt responses to all Questions for Written Answers.

Developing Countries: Coronavirus

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk presented to UK citizens by low vaccine rates in low income countries. [HL4734]

Lord Kamall: The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has not made a specific assessment of the overall risk presented by low vaccine rates in low-income countries. However, the UKHSA produces regular assessments of the risk presented to the United Kingdom by travellers from other countries and nations. Assessment of vaccination coverage in low income countries forms part of these individual country risk assessments, including the risk/threat to public health in

the UK. These risk assessments are used by Ministers to decide on border security measures, such as ‘red listing’.

Disease Control

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they have updated their future pandemic preparedness strategy, in view of the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. [HL4875]

Lord Kamall: The Department's pandemic preparedness plans are kept under constant review and regularly evolve with new scientific information. We integrate learning from previous outbreaks, including COVID-19, and from rigorous testing and exercises. We continue to prepare for a range of pandemic and emerging infectious disease scenarios and aim to have robust, flexible and deployable capabilities that can be adapted to outbreaks of different scales and characteristics.

We are committed to learning lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and will commence a full public inquiry in spring 2022. This will be considered by the Government and a range of stakeholders, including expert advisory groups and local emergency planners, to inform our planning for potential future pandemics.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) was established on 1 October 2021 and incorporates the new Centre for Pandemic Preparedness (CPP). Working with the CPP, the UKHSA will ensure that we are protected from future health threats, including pandemics, by building on the enhanced capabilities deployed to tackle COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks.

Disease Control: International Cooperation

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the report by the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response's COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, published on 12 May, and (2) the proposal by the governments of South Africa and Pakistan for publicly funded epidemic protections. [HL4791]

Lord Kamall: The findings and recommendations of the Independent Panel on Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) and the other review processes have informed the United Kingdom's positions on strengthening pandemic preparedness and response. We are taking a leading role on reform of the global health architecture through the World Health Organization's (WHO) Executive Board and the G7 presidency. This includes many of the recommendations made by the IPPPR, such as working with international partners on a proposal for a Pandemic Treaty, implementing a stronger early warning system and reducing the risk of zoonotic diseases through better surveillance.

We welcome proposals to improve pandemic preparedness and response from all states, including any

proposal from South Africa and Pakistan. We will assess these when formally received, including through the World Health Assembly, the WHO Executive Board or the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies.

Disposable Wipes: Plastics

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the link between sewage spills and the disposal of wet wipes containing plastic; and what advice they plan to give to companies to reduce the use of plastic wipes. [HL4691]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are committed to tackling the issues caused by wet wipes. On 20 November, we launched a call for evidence on commonly littered and problematic plastics, and this includes a chapter on wet wipes.

Defra continues to encourage the water industry and wet wipe manufacturers to work together to raise consumer awareness about the appropriate disposal of wet wipes and other non-flushable products.

Diversity and Inclusion Directorate: Staff

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are serving in the Ministry of Defence's diversity and inclusion directorate; what are their (1) grades, and (2) salaries; what is their reporting chain; and who is the responsible Secretary of State for their work. [HL4922]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Directorate brings together a number of teams who deliver work related to the creation of an inclusive culture; the Service Discipline, Conduct, Complaints, and Legislation team (DCCL), Service Justice Complaints and Behaviours Transformation team (CJBT), the Defence Serious Crime Capability team (DSCC) and the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) team. This Directorate is part of the wider Defence People Transformation team, led by a 2-star Senior Civil Servant reporting to the Chief of Defence People, and was announced in the Defence Command Paper as a public statement of the MOD's commitment to change. The D&I Directorate brings together the existing Service Justice and Complaints process with the teams charged with transforming these processes. This allows a coordinated, consistent, and cross-cutting approach to tackle fairness, equality, and justice across Defence and make real change to the experiences of our people.

The grades and salary bands of the Directorate's staff can be found in the separate Excel workbook accompanying this answer. The Directorate is part of the MOD and is, therefore, responsible to and the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Defence

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL4922 - Diversity and Inclusion Grades and Salary [Copy of DI Directorate Grades and Salaries.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-13/HL4922>

Doctors

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), how many doctors were employed by the NHS in (1) 2019, and (2) 2021. [HL4173]

Lord Kamall: In August 2019, there were 115,469 full time equivalent (FTE) Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) doctors working in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England and 126,625 in August 2021. There were 34,433 FTE doctors in general practice in England as at 30 September 2019 and 36,275 in September 2021.

Doctors: Retirement

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), what assessment they have made of the number of NHS doctors who are likely to retire between 2021 and 2024. [HL4172]

Lord Kamall: An assessment of future expected retirement rates for National Health Service doctors is complex. Retirement is a personal choice and an individual may choose to retire for a range of reasons. While it is not possible to isolate a single factor which motivates retirement, we continue to monitor retirement patterns of doctors in the NHS.

Dragonflies: Conservation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the finding in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species that 16 per cent of (1) dragonflies, and (2) damselflies, are under threat of extinction, what steps they are taking to (a) conserve, and (b) protect, rare and threatened dragonflies in England. [HL5023]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is concerned by the recent findings of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, that 16 percent of dragonflies and damselflies are under threat of extinction globally. In England, 12 percent of the dragonflies and damselflies that breed here are threatened.

As set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government is committed to taking action to recover our threatened native species. Natural England is taking

action to conserve threatened dragonflies and damselflies through its Species Recovery Programme. For example, southern damselfly populations are being monitored and habitat condition improved. Under the 'Back from the Brink' partnership, habitat has been restored in Dorset, resulting in increased populations of southern damselfly at 3 out of 4 of sites.

In England we have an extensive network of protected wildlife areas providing benefits for many species, including sites specifically designated for species of particular importance. A total of 93 SSSIs in England are notified for important dragonfly or damselfly populations, including threatened species such as Brilliant Emerald and Norfolk Hawker.

The 25 Year Environment Plan commits us to restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition by 2042.

Economic Growth and Trade: Balkans

Asked by The Earl of Dundee

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to lead new initiatives to sustain (1) trade, and (2) economic growth, in (a) Bosnia and Herzegovina, and (b) the Western Balkans. [HL5009]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Government has signed Trade, Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Serbia, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania, supporting jobs and economic growth, allowing us to build on our trade and investment relationships. UK Export Finance is also an important part of our offer to the region, providing competitive financing for large infrastructure projects.

With Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are working to secure a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement that will ensure preferential terms of trade between the UK and Bosnia and Herzegovina and promote stability and prosperity in the region. We are keen to conclude this as soon as possible.

Economic Partnership Agreements: Commonwealth

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what priority they are giving to negotiating economic partnership agreements with Commonwealth countries. [HL4968]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: We are committed to working with our friends and allies in the Commonwealth to remove unnecessary barriers to free and fair trade.

The UK already has trade deals with 33 Commonwealth members. In addition, a further 15 Commonwealth members who qualify as developing countries benefit from reduced tariffs under the Generalised Scheme of Preferences.

Economic Situation: Equality

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policies of (1) Thailand, (2) Cambodia, and (3) South Korea, towards reducing economic inequalities; and what steps they plan to take on the basis of such assessment. [HL4893]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to deepening and cementing our ties with Thailand, Cambodia and the Republic of Korea as part of our Indo-Pacific tilt.

The Government of Thailand's focus on reducing economic inequalities is outlined in the Thailand 4.0 economic model that focuses on prosperity, security and sustainability. The UK is working with Thailand to provide technical support and partnership, and has developed programmes on health, low carbon transition, smart cities and the digital economy.

The Government of Cambodia's Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023 seeks to address economic inequalities and promote inclusive growth. The UK is working with Cambodia through the Accelerated COVID-19 Economic Support programme that looks to address economic inequalities by seeking industrial diversification. We are also addressing girls' education and women's empowerment through leadership programmes.

The Korean New Deal outlines the Government of the Republic of Korea's overarching economic policies including on inequality. As part of the UK's Presidency, we invited ROK to the G7 as a Guest Country. Through the G7, we are working together to address global economic inequality, for example by supporting girls' education through funding the Global Partnership for Education, and are working to ensure a clean and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for example by offering support to COVAX.

Egypt: Prisons

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they intend to have with the government of Egypt on reports concerning the prohibition of books and exercise to prisoners in maximum security prisons in that country. [HL4795]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As part of our human rights work in Egypt, we focus on lobbying to end pre-trial detention and improving prison conditions in Egypt. On human rights more broadly, the Foreign Secretary raised human rights in her first meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry in New York on 20 September. Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, James Cleverly, also raised human rights with Foreign Minister Shoukry and met human rights activists during his recent visit to Cairo. We welcome Egypt's new human rights strategy.

Electric Cables

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the resilience of overhead power cables and the case for moving these wires underground. [HL4689]

Lord Callanan: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has commissioned a post-incident review into Storm Arwen to identify lessons and best practice for system resilience, including physical infrastructure, as well as communications, resourcing.

As the independent regulator for energy, Ofgem has also announced a review into the impact of Storm Arwen. This will focus on the role of the network companies in maintaining resilience of the system, which includes physical infrastructure, and their emergency response.

Employment and Training: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide (1) training, and (2) job opportunities, for members of the black community in London, aged 16–24, who are currently unemployed. [HL4719]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government is committed to levelling up and building back better by helping our young people from all backgrounds to boost their skills and get into work. There were a record high 4.22 million individuals from an ethnic minority background in employment in September 2021, an increase of 110,000 on the year.

We continue to support young people from all backgrounds through our Youth Offer which is now available for all 16 to 24-year olds making a claim for Universal Credit and in the intensive work search group. It provides wrap-around support through the 13-week Youth Employment Programme, Youth Hubs where young people can access a range of services in one location, and specialist Youth Employability Coaches. These are helping all young people move into work-related provision such as access to education, training or employment programmes that will ultimately lead to sustained employment opportunities and career progression.

For example, The Department for Work and Pensions are working with the Black Training Enterprise Group in Brent and Newham, improving opportunities for young black men to secure skilled jobs in higher-earning sectors including Construction, Financial Services, and Information Technology.

The largest ever expansion of traineeships, and extension of the apprenticeship and traineeship incentive payments to employers in England, will also help young people from all backgrounds to access high quality training and apprenticeship opportunities.

The Youth Offer, and other support such as our Kickstart programme, is part of our £2 billion Plan for Jobs, which was boosted by a further £500 million in October 2021. This is giving all young people the right support that will ultimately lead to sustained employment opportunities and career progression.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support young people into jobs in (1) England, and (2) other European countries. [HL4812]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We have announced our Plan for Jobs expansion which will see another £500 million invested in supporting people into jobs. Specific support for young people is available through Kickstart and the DWP Youth Offer.

The Kickstart scheme is dedicated to helping 16-24-year olds at risk of long-term unemployment develop their skills and experience through 6-month work placements. Over 112,000 Kickstart jobs have been started, and the scheme will continue until March 2022, offering jobs and experience to many thousands more young people.

We are extending the DWP Youth Offer to 2025 and have expanded eligibility to include 16 and 17-year olds, in addition to 18 to 24-year olds, who are claiming Universal Credit and searching for work. The Youth Offer currently provides intensive work search support through the Youth Employment Programme, specialised Youth Employment Coaches for young people with additional barriers to work, and over 150 Youth Hubs across England, Scotland and Wales.

DWP is working in collaboration with the Department for Education, National Careers Service, devolved administrations, and other partners to deliver a comprehensive package of support for young people.

The Government's primary focus is the recovery of the labour market in the UK.

Energy

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will introduce support for community energy schemes. [HL4927]

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of community energy schemes being used to increase public involvement in the drive towards Net Zero. [HL4928]

Lord Callanan: The Government recognises that community energy projects can play a role in raising awareness of both the energy system and wider environmental issues, and in the promotion of behaviour change.

In order to support community energy projects, the Government's £10m Rural Community Energy Fund supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects.

Energy Supply: North of England

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect people who have lost power due to Storm Arwen to be reconnected; and whether a review has been undertaken of communication between (1) Government, (2) power distribution companies, and (3) members of the public about energy supply issues. [HL4690]

Lord Callanan: The impacts of Storm Arwen were very unusual. All customers that lost their electricity supply were restored by the 8th December.

My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has commissioned a post-incident review into Storm Arwen to identify lessons and best practice for communications, resourcing and system resilience. This will include a review of communications between Government, power distribution companies and the public.

As the independent regulator for energy, Ofgem has also announced it will undertake a review into the impact of Storm Arwen. This will focus on the role of the network companies in maintaining the resilience of the system and their emergency response, including their communications with customers.

Environment Protection: Technology

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to share UK expertise in green technology with partners in (1) the Middle East, and (2) North Africa region, following the water-for-energy deal agreed by Israel and Jordan, and brokered by the United Arab Emirates. [HL5061]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Middle East and North Africa region, particularly as one of the most water stressed regions in the world, will be profoundly affected by climate change. Regional co-operation to address shared challenges, such as the water for energy deal, is necessary. The UK is committed to supporting the region transition to low carbon economies and to adapt to future climate change. Through Build Back Better, HMG will be exploring ways to supplement existing efforts which include work on green finance instruments across North Africa using the expertise of the Bank of England and the recent £50m contribution to the High Impact Partnership for Climate Action trust fund delivered by London headquartered European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Environment: Crime

Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Parliament of Belgium to create an offence of ecocide; and what plans they have to introduce legislation to make ecocide an offence in the UK. [HL4751]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We do not currently have plans to introduce such a law in the UK, but we have strengthened regulations in England in recent months to protect the environment. These are enforced by a variety of regulators including the newly-established Office of Environmental Protection, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Forestry Commission, the Marine Management Organisation, Ofwat, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, local authorities and Defra itself. Many of these regulators are able to seek criminal convictions to punish significant or persistent environmental offending and to create a deterrent against future non-compliance. They also have access to a broader suite of civil sanctions for many of the offences they are responsible for enforcing.

Ethiopia: Food Aid

Asked by **Lord Boateng**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the parties engaged in the conflict in Ethiopia to permit the resumption of food distribution by the UN in areas affected by that conflict. [HL4863]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This conflict in Ethiopia has caused a humanitarian catastrophe, with the UN estimating that 9.4 million people across the north of the country require life-saving aid. Over 400,000 people in Tigray are experiencing famine-like conditions. The context could not be more serious.

Since the outset of the conflict in November 2020 the UK has continually advocated for unfettered access for all humanitarian actors. In its interactions with the various warring parties UK Ministers and FCDO officials have repeatedly stressed the criticality of free access for aid agencies.

Asked by **Lord Boateng**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the humanitarian relief effort in Ethiopia of the UN's suspension of food distribution in the Amhara region; and in particular, on the number of deaths of children in that region. [HL4864]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This conflict in Ethiopia has caused a humanitarian catastrophe, with the UN estimating that 9.4 million people across the north of the country require life-saving aid. Over 400,000 people in Tigray are experiencing famine-like conditions. The context could not be more serious.

We remain extremely concerned about the limited delivery of humanitarian aid across northern Ethiopia with conflict and access restrictions hindering the ability of aid agencies to work. Such restrictions are also complicating the conduct of needs assessments meaning we lack a detailed understanding of humanitarian requirements across northern Ethiopia. However, experience from other contexts shows us that young children bear the brunt of such crises. For example it is likely that many children in Afar, Amhara and Tigray have succumbed to otherwise preventable diseases such as diarrhoea due to the limited availability of clean water and healthcare and nutritional services.

Euro 2020: Arrests and Prosecutions

Asked by **Lord Bassam of Brighton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many arrests were made by the Metropolitan Police Service at each England Euro 2020 match played at Wembley for offences relating to football disorder. [HL4817]

Asked by **Lord Bassam of Brighton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many charges were made for offences relating to football disorder for each England Euro 2020 match. [HL4818]

Asked by **Lord Bassam of Brighton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many convictions related to (1) disorder, and (2) racist offences, at football matches there were in each of the last five years. [HL4820]

Asked by **Lord Bassam of Brighton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many football banning orders were made under the Football (Disorder) Act 2000 in each of the last five years. [HL4821]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Data on arrests made by the Metropolitan Police Service for offences relating to football disorder relevant for the purposes of Schedule 1 of the Football Spectators Act 1989 at each England match during the Euro2020 tournament is shown in the table below: -

Date	Opponent	Arrests
13 June 2021	Croatia	2
18 June 2021	Scotland	28
22 June 2021	Czech Republic	1
29 June 2021	Germany	2
3 July 2021	Ukraine	0
7 July 2021	Denmark	18
11 July 2021	Italy	39

Police investigations into football disorder offences committed in connection with Euro 2020 matches and the

resultant legal proceedings are ongoing. The Home Office does not hold data on the charging of these offences.

Data on convictions related to disorder, and racist offences, at football matches in each of the last five years is not held centrally.

The Home Office publishes annual statistics on the number of football banning orders issued each year. These can be found on gov.uk.

Euro 2020: Prosecutions

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases have been brought to court relating to charges made at England Euro 2020 matches played at Wembley. [HL4819]

Lord Stewart of Dirlerton: No central data is kept that would identify how many cases have been brought to court specifically relating to charges made at England Euro 2020 matches. To obtain this information would require a manual review of CPS case files which would come at a disproportionate cost.

Events Industry: Non-domestic Rates

Asked by The Earl of Clancarty

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide 100 per cent business rate relief to the end of 2022/23 for all music venues, given the COVID-19 Plan B restrictions. [HL4945]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the introduction of Plan B COVID-19 restrictions, what plans they have, if any, to provide 100 percent Business Rate Relief to the end of 2022/23 for all music venues. [HL4963]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Our support for the music industry through the £2 billion Culture Recovery Fund throughout the pandemic has been unwavering.

The Government has provided unprecedented business rates support, worth £16 billion, for the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors since the start of the pandemic. Eligible retail, hospitality, and leisure properties paid no business rates for 15 months from 1 April 2020, and thanks to the current 66 per cent capped relief which took effect on 1 July 2021, over 90 per cent of eligible businesses will see a 75 per cent reduction in their business rates bill across this entire financial year to April 2022.

In recognition of longer-term challenges facing the high street, eligible retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses will receive a new temporary relief worth almost £1.7 billion in the year 2022-23.

Female Genital Mutilation

Asked by Lord Berkeley of Knighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of female genital mutilation in England. [HL4929]

Lord Kamall: NHS Digital's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Enhanced Dataset collects data on women and girls with FGM being cared for by the National Health Service in England. The latest data shows that in the period April 2020 to March 2021 there were 5,395 individual women and girls with an attendance where FGM was identified.

The total number of individual women and girls with an attendance where FGM was identified has been relatively stable this year but remains reduced in comparison to total attendances and individuals recorded for the previous year.

Financial Services: Carbon Emissions

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to implement net-zero carbon emissions transition plans on a mandatory basis to avoid (1) regulatory uncertainty, and (2) delays, in transitioning London to a net-zero financial centre, as part of the Greening Finance: A Roadmap to Sustainable Investing, published in October. [HL4971]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: At COP26 Finance Day the Chancellor announced that the UK will move towards making transition plans mandatory. Initially, asset managers, regulated asset owners and listed companies will need to publish a transition plan or provide an explanation if they have not done so.

Recognising that there is not yet an agreed standard for transition plans, the Chancellor also announced that the Government will set up a Transition Plan Taskforce. This will bring together the best of British industry and academia with regulators and the third sector to develop recommendations on transition plan disclosures in the UK.

As standards for transition plans emerge, the Government and regulators will take steps to incorporate these into the UK's Sustainability Disclosure Requirements and strengthen requirements to encourage consistency in published plans and increased adoption by 2023.

Fisheries: UK Trade with EU

Asked by The Earl of Caithness

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether issues related to the fishing of non-quota species will be included in their assessment of the operation of the UK-EU Trade and Co-operation Agreement. [HL5001]

Lord Benyon: Non-quota species (NQS) fisheries in English waters are of significant interest to both UK and EU vessels, given the high value of NQS, and their importance to local communities. Despite this, NQS are in many cases data limited, and improving the robust scientific evidence base underpinning management of NQS is a priority area. Doing so will allow for improved assessments of stock status to take place.

The Fisheries Act also commits the Government to publish Fisheries Management Plans to help deliver our ambition for sustainable fisheries. These plans will set out how we can manage fishing activity to achieve our ambition for stocks to recover and be maintained within sustainable limits, while reducing the impact of fishing on the wider environment. The Joint Fisheries Statement will set out a list of proposed Fisheries Management Plans that will be published over the next five years.

The UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement outlines provisions for the management of shared non-quota species. Working with the EU, through the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, we will develop multi-year strategies for the sustainable management of shared NQS which will be key to improved data collection.

Food: Production

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commit to maintaining Britain's self-sufficiency in food production at 60 per cent. [HL4975]

Lord Benyon: The UK has a highly resilient food supply chain, as demonstrated throughout the Covid-19 response. It is well equipped to deal with situations with the potential to cause disruption. Our high degree of food security is built by supply from diverse sources; strong domestic production as well as imports through stable trade routes. This provides us with the resilience we need in the face of risks such as adverse weather, animal or crop disease, or transport and border disruption.

Our production to supply ratio remains high in comparison with historical levels. We produce 60% of all the food we need, and 74% of food which we can grow or rear in the UK for all or part of the year, and these figures have changed little over the last 20 years. The UK's year-round production includes cereals, meats, milk and some fresh produce, and we have close to 100% production to supply ratios in poultry, turnips, carrots and swedes.

The UK Food Security Report recognises the contribution made by British farmers to our resilience, and the importance of strong domestic production to our food security. It considers the UK's food supply sources overall, noting that domestic production and diversity of supply are both important to our food security. The UKFSR summarises existing information and understanding. It serves as an evidence base for future policy work, and does not contain policy recommendations.

Asked by The Earl of Caithness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 15 November (HL Deb, col 49GC), what are the reasons for the minister's view that the Earl of Caithness has argued that "the choice is between food production and ecological restoration". [HL5003]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: My remark referred to comments made by my noble Friend during the passage of the Environment Bill, where he implied a focus on the environment could conflict with the need to produce food. The remark did not refer to the speech delivered by my noble Friend during the Beyond Brexit Debate (15 November 2021). The Government is committed to rewarding farmers and land managers for their role as environmental stewards and investing in productivity, through our future environmental land management schemes and current schemes like the recently launched Farming Investment Fund. A healthy environment is crucial to providing the ecosystem services which underpin a thriving agricultural sector, through fertile soils, clean water and pollination.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Libya

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, (1) finance, (2) equipment, (3) training, and (4) other support, they have provided to the Libyan (a) coast guard, (b) intelligence service, (c) other security agencies, and (d) militias, since 2015. [HL4957]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK does not provide any direct financial support to the Libyan Government or its agencies. The UK's priority in Libya is supporting the UN-led political process and our programmatic support and diplomatic work are mutually reinforcing. We have provided over £57 million since 2015 from the Government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund to: support the delivery of greater security, stability and resilience; promote more inclusive political dialogue and participation; help target communities recover from and manage the impacts of the conflict; and boost inclusive economic development.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Staff

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports from 11 December, what plans they have to reduce staff numbers at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office by 20 per cent by 2025; and what assessment, if any, they have made of the implications of such a plan for the UK's international reputation. [HL5020]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Work is ongoing on the FCDO's Strategic Workforce Plan, which will define the longer-term workforce size, skills and expertise that the department will require for the next three years, out to 2025. At this stage no decisions have been made.

The department's focus on strategic workforce planning will ensure that we have the right capabilities to deliver on our international priorities as set out in the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy and the forthcoming International Development Strategy.

Forests: Commodities

Asked by Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide translations of the consultation document and online survey on implementing due diligence on forest risk commodities, in order to aid those responding from source countries. [HL4880]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK Government published a consultation on 3 December 2021 to seek views on how the world-leading due diligence provisions introduced in the Environment Act should be implemented. The consultation will be open until 11 March 2022 and is available at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/international-biodiversity-and-climate/implementing-due-diligence-forest-risk-commodities/>

Although the legislation will only apply to relevant businesses operating in the UK, the consultation is open to respondents across the world. We want to hear from a wide range of stakeholders in the UK and internationally on the principles of our proposal, and to use their feedback to ensure that we design secondary legislation in the most effective way. Whilst we do not have plans to issue translations of the technical consultation document and online survey, Defra will continue to work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office to help ensure relevant stakeholders in other countries can engage effectively in the consultation.

France: Antisemitism

Asked by Lord Shinkwin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of France regarding steps to counter levels of antisemitism in the UK and France. [HL5028]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK and France stand together in opposing antisemitism. The UK works with France and other partners in the UN, OSCE, G7 and Council of Europe to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief for all.

Further Education: Finance

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the Institute for Fiscal Studies' 2021 Annual Report on Education Spending in England, published on 30 November; and in particular the finding that, even with additional funding announced in the Spending Review, college spending per pupil in 2024–25 will be around ten per cent below 2010–11 levels, while school sixth-form spending per pupil will be 23 per cent below 2010–11 levels. [HL4854]

Baroness Barran: The 2021 Spending Review delivered a very positive settlement for 16-19 education, providing much needed support for our excellent colleges and school sixth forms. It has made available an extra £1.6 billion for 16-19 education in financial year 2024-25 compared with financial year 2021-22.

This follows the extra £691 million allocated in the previous two years, an additional £291 million in financial year 2021-22 and £400 million from the 2019 Spending Review. These two increases have allowed the government to increase and maintain the base rate of funding from £4,000 to £4,188 in academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22, for all providers of 16-19 education, including colleges and school sixth forms. Over and above this base rate figure, the government has made further funding increases targeted on high value and high cost programmes as well as providing additional funding to support those on level 3 programmes to continue to study English and mathematics where needed. As a result, the average total programme funding per 16-19 student has increased more significantly than the base rate, from £4,516 in academic year 2019/20[1] to £4,994 in academic year 2021/22¹.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies' 2021 Annual Report recognises that funding will increase further, estimating that as a result of the additional funding in the 2021 Spending Review, total spending per student in 16–18 education is set to rise by 6% in real terms between financial years 2021–22 and 2024–25.

The department will set out details of how the additional funding from the 2021 Spending Review settlement will be allocated in due course.

[1] This calculation is based on published allocations, taking the amount of Total Programme Funding allocated, divided by the total number of students in each academic year, at providers receiving programme funding. Some institutions receive only high needs funding, and their students are not included in this calculation.

Gambling: Licensing

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to create a national register of -all individuals who

(1) have been refused, or (2) had revoked, a license issued under the Gambling Act 2005. [HL4797]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Gambling Commission does not publish a register of individuals or operators which have been refused a licence. However, it does publish a register of companies and individuals who hold, or have applied for, operating licences in Great Britain. It also publishes the names of companies or individuals whose licences have lapsed, expired, or have been revoked, forfeited, suspended, or surrendered in the last three years. The register is available [here](#).

Gambling: Money Laundering

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay on 17 November (HL3696), what is their estimate of the total number of stolen funds that are used for gambling purposes each year. [HL4737]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Written Answer of 17 November set out amounts divested by licensed operators in cases where there was both identified anti-money laundering failings and criminal spending and an individual was criminally convicted. The Gambling Commission does not hold further data on stolen funds used for gambling purposes.

All gambling operators have a responsibility to keep financial crime out of gambling. The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 places an obligation on operators to be alert to attempts by customers to gamble money acquired unlawfully, either to obtain legitimate money in return or simply using criminal proceeds to fund gambling.

Gaza: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that residents in Gaza receive their fair share of COVID-19 vaccinations. [HL4714]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Tackling COVID-19 remains a priority for the Government. We welcome the steps that the parties have taken so far to coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including ensuring that essential medical supplies and staff can access Gaza, and encourage further dialogue in this regard. The UK is committed to global equitable access to effective vaccines as demonstrated by our £548 million contribution to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment - the international initiative to support global equitable access to vaccines. The Occupied Palestinian Territories was one of the first to receive vaccines from this scheme. The UK has raised the need for equitable access to vaccines in discussions with both the Palestinian Authority and Government of Israel.

Genocide

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice regarding state responsibility to prevent and punish mass atrocity crimes, what assessment have they made of a "serious risk" of genocide in (1) Xinjiang, China, (2) Tigray, Ethiopia, and (3) Myanmar. [HL4786]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: It is the long-standing policy of the British Government that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent national or international court, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. It should be decided after consideration of all the evidence available in the context of a credible judicial process. We seek an end to all violations of international law, and to prevent their further escalation, irrespective of whether these violations fit the definition of specific international crimes.

We are seriously concerned about the gross violations of human rights in Xinjiang and atrocities in Ethiopia and Myanmar. We are taking action in all three situations including taking steps to hold the Government of Myanmar accountable through the UN, where we coordinated a joint statement on 26 November acknowledging the risk of mass atrocities in Myanmar which called for an immediate end to the violence; undertaking diplomatic and programmatic efforts to enable a resolution to the conflict and build lasting peace in Ethiopia; and imposing sanctions, including against senior Chinese Government officials and the regime in Myanmar.

Hate Crime

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with OFCOM regarding guidance for (1) the BBC, and (2) other media organisations, concerning the (a) accuracy, and (b) sensitivity, of reporting of issues relating to hate crime. [HL5039]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Ofcom has long-standing broadcasting rules through its [Broadcasting Code](#), protecting against hate speech and prohibiting material likely to incite crime or lead to disorder, which apply to all broadcasters, including the BBC. Ofcom rules ensure that news, in whatever form, is reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality. Ofcom rules allow broadcasters to include hate speech in their output as long as it is justified by the context. Ofcom guidance also requires that broadcasters take into account sensitivity across the public and/or within communities.

Separate [rules](#) for video-on-demand services prohibit incitement to hatred. In November 2021 Ofcom updated its guidance further to protect users from harmful material. In August 2021, the Government launched a [consultation](#) to level the playing field between traditional broadcasters and video-on-demand streaming services, in

order to provide a fair competitive framework and ensure that viewers in the UK receive equivalent standards. We are now considering our response to that consultation and will publish next steps in due course.

Ofcom's Video Sharing Platform [rules](#) require providers to take appropriate measures to protect against harmful material, including incitement to violence or hatred against particular groups of people.

Health Professions: Migrant Workers

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of recruitment by the NHS of clinical staff trained and employed in low- and middle-income countries on the healthcare systems of those countries. [[HL4599](#)]

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many memoranda of understanding they have agreed with other countries to regulate the recruitment of clinical staff by the NHS; and what assessment they have made of the related impact of each. [[HL4600](#)]

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to agree memoranda of understanding with countries affected by the recruitment of clinical staff by the NHS to regulate that practice and avoid unforeseen consequences for the healthcare systems of those countries. [[HL4601](#)]

Lord Kamall: We have made no specific assessment of the impact of recruitment by the NHS of clinical staff trained and employed in low- and middle-income countries on the healthcare systems of those countries. The Government routinely monitors international recruitment activity and where there are significant workforce flows into the National Health Service, particularly from low and middle-income countries, we are engaging with those nations on how this recruitment could be managed through Government to Government agreements.

International recruitment is regulated through the Code of Practice for the International Recruitment of Health and Social Care Personnel, which is available in an online only format. The Code prevents active international recruitment from a list of 47 countries, unless there is a Government to Government agreement in place to manage international recruitment. These countries have been identified by the World Health Organization as having health economies with significant and unsustainable workforce challenges.

We have signed agreements with the Governments of the Philippines, Kenya and Malaysia to manage healthcare worker recruitment. As these are new agreements within the last six months, no assessment has

yet been made of the impact. Any further agreements will be published online once they have been signed.

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Kamall on 13 December (HL Deb, col 8), which countries have a surplus of medical professionals. [[HL4956](#)]

Lord Kamall: The information requested is not held centrally. However, we are aware of a number of countries with unemployed nurses and countries that train excess numbers of nurses for their domestic requirements in order to give employment opportunities. We are in discussions with the Governments of some of these countries regarding supporting their health systems and giving opportunities to trained staff in the United Kingdom. We have established Government to Government health worker migration agreements with Kenya, Malaysia and the Philippines this year and a Health Workforce Taskforce with the Government of India as part of the Enhanced Trade Partnership, signed earlier in 2021.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the need to incorporate Inclusion Health populations within NHS England strategies. [[HL4140](#)]

Lord Kamall: NHS England's vision for health inequalities is to ensure exceptional quality healthcare for all, through equitable access, excellent experience and optimal outcomes. NHS England's Health Inequalities Quality Improvement Programme is committed to deliver this vision by:

- Ensuring inclusion health is embedded across all core programmes and system policies to enable the restoration of NHS services inclusively;
- Mitigating against 'digital exclusion';
- Improving the ability to identify need and monitor/measure health outcomes by ensuring datasets are complete and timely;
- Accelerating preventative programmes; and
- Strengthening leadership and accountability across integrated care systems and national, regional and place-based systems.

NHS England and NHS Improvement's Core20PLUS5 is a national approach to support the reduction of health inequalities at both national and system level, including for inclusion health populations. In support of Core20PLUS5, integrated care systems will be required to develop inclusion health plans. These will highlight key national, regional and local priorities.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost of the Western Rail Link to Heathrow; and how much of that cost will be contributed by Heathrow Airport. [HL4986]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The total nominal capital cost for the Western Rail Link to Heathrow, in 2018 prices, is estimated at around £1.5bn to construct the rail link between Heathrow Airport Station and the Great Western Main Line. For the scheme to proceed, the Government has been clear that Heathrow Airport Limited would need to secure and provide an acceptable financial contribution.

High Speed 2 Line: Greater Manchester

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what commitment they have received from Manchester Airport to fund the proposed HS2 station for that city. [HL4987]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government remains supportive of a HS2 station at Manchester Airport, however the construction of this station and its inclusion in the final scheme remains subject to agreeing an appropriate local funding contribution. The Department have been, and continues to, work positively with Greater Manchester Local Authorities and Manchester Airport Group (MAG) on this matter.

High Speed 2 Line: Railway Stations

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the HS2 contract awarded to a Hitachi and Alstom joint-venture, which stations the trains delivered by that contract will serve; which platforms within these stations will also be served by trains operating on Network Rail tracks; and what station platform heights will be used for trains delivered from the contract. [HL4859]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The 54 trains contracted will be able to operate on the HS2 infrastructure as well as the conventional network primarily to serve the routes on the West Coast.

The exact train service will be defined at a later date by the West Coast Partner.

The stations on the HS2 infrastructure will offer street to train seat step free, with a platform height of 1115mm.

High Speed 2 Line: Rolling Stock

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the HS2 contract awarded to a Hitachi and Alstom joint-venture, whether there will be two separate types of train, (a)

classic compatible trains, and (b) trains dedicated to high-speed lines. [HL4860]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The 54 trains contracted from the Joint venture are conventional compatible trains only.

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the HS2 contract awarded to a Hitachi and Alstom joint-venture, (1) what estimate they have made of the number passenger seats that will be provided in each train, and (2) what provision there will be for passengers travelling with bicycles. [HL4861]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The number of seats and other interior provisions were described in the Invitation to Tender documentation published in April 2017. The exact details will be refined over the next year before the detailed design commences in conjunction with the West Coast Partner.

Horticulture: Seasonal Workers

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported shortage of seasonal labour in the ornamental horticulture production industry; and whether they will publish the findings of any such assessment. [HL4693]

Lord Benyon: Defra is considering the latest data and working with the ornamental horticulture production industry to understand labour demand and supply, including both permanent and seasonal workforce requirements. We will continue to monitor the labour needs of the ornamental horticulture sector and help to ensure that these are met.

In December 2020, a Defra-led review into automation in horticulture was also announced alongside a review of the Seasonal Workers Pilot. The review will report on ways to increase automation in both the edible and ornamental horticulture sectors and meet the Government's aim of reducing the need for migrant seasonal labour.

The Government has announced that the seasonal worker visa route will be extended to 2024 to allow overseas workers to come to the UK for up to six months to harvest both edible and ornamental crops. 30,000 visas will be available. This will be kept under review with the potential to increase by 10,000 visas if necessary.

Hospital Beds

Asked by Lord Owen

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average bed occupancy in NHS hospitals in England per year for the last 30 years for which figures are available. [HL4879]

Lord Kamall: Data on the average bed occupancy in National Health Service hospitals in England in each year is held from 2010/11 onwards and is shown in the following table.

Year, Total bed occupancy, General and acute bed occupancy:

2010/11	85.4%	87.1%
2011/12	85.3%	86.9%
2012/13	86.2%	88.0%
2013/14	86.3%	88.0%
2014/15	87.2%	89.0%
2015/16	87.2%	88.9%
2016/17	88.3%	90.3%
2017/18	88.2%	90.3%
2018/19	88.0%	90.1%
2019/20	88.0%	90.2%
2020/21	76.0%	76.6%
2021/22	84.8%	86.5%

Source: NHS England

Note: Data for 2021/22 includes figures from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Hospitality Industry

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to (1) protect, and (2) promote, the hospitality sector in the (a) short, (b) medium, and (c) long, term. [HL4932]

Lord Callanan: The Government moved to Plan B in England as it was necessary to control the spread of transmission of the new threat posed by the Omicron variant and the potential impact on businesses. In order to support all businesses across the UK economy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have provided businesses with an unprecedented support package of £400 billion, including grants, loans, business rates relief, VAT cuts and the job retention scheme. This includes a total of over £26bn in business grants. The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) fund is open until March 2022.

We are also engaging closely with the hospitality sector to listen to their concerns and help them in their recovery. Additionally, we are working closely with the sector through the Hospitality Sector Council to implement the hospitality strategy which was launched in July. The strategy sets out how the UK government will work with the hospitality sector, as it reopens and recovers from COVID-19, to build the sector's longer-term resilience. It includes a dedicated recovery working group, made of sector organisations, businesses and government officials, looking at solutions to manage urgent Covid 19 impacts on the sector.

Hospitality Industry: Vacancies

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help the hospitality sector fill job vacancies in that sector. [HL4720]

Lord Callanan: The Department has launched the first-ever hospitality strategy to support the reopening, recovery and resilience of England's pubs, restaurants, cafes and nightclubs. As part of this, we have set up the Hospitality Sector Council to oversee the delivery of the strategy, including working with the sector to make hospitality a career option of choice and looking at the labour and skills shortages.

In order to help address the immediate challenges of labour shortages in the hospitality sector, the Department for Work and Pensions is working hard to fill ongoing vacancies by using work coaches to help find local talent, and Plans for Jobs programmes, such as Kickstart and Sector-based Work Academy Programmes. The Department for Education has also added hospitality and catering qualifications to the Free Courses for Jobs, as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee. Additionally, we are increasing employer-led apprenticeship funding to £2.7 billion by 2024-25, extending the £3,000 incentive payment for every apprentice a business hires up until 31 January 2022, and improving the apprenticeship system for employers.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide greater (1) powers, and (2) funding, to (a) local, and (b) city, authorities to enable homes to be retrofitted more quickly. [HL4773]

Lord Callanan: The Government is working closely with local authorities as they are best placed to understand how to deliver home retrofits for the betterment of their local communities.

The Government has committed more than £6.6bn in this Parliament to make energy efficiency updates to homes as well as community buildings such as schools, hospitals and leisure centres. Schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant, the Local Authority Delivery Scheme and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund are being delivered through local authorities. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a list of participating Local Authorities in England.

Human Rights: Freedom of Expression

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will review the (1) operation, and (2) effectiveness, of section 12 of the Human Rights Act 1998 relating to freedom of expression. [HL4989]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: On 14 December the Government published a consultation on its proposals to revise and replace the Human Rights Act 1998 with a Bill of Rights.

This includes proposals to strengthen the right to freedom of expression, reflecting the UK's history, traditions and values.

Responses and views are sought on how Section 12 of the Human Rights Act could be amended. The Government is consulting on how we can ensure that the right to freedom of expression of the press and other publishers is properly balanced with other rights when the court is assessing applications for injunctions against publication by making clear that the right to freedom of expression is of the utmost importance and that the courts should only grant relief impinging on it where there are exceptional reasons; The Government is also looking at what further steps could be taken to provide greater protection for journalists' sources.

The consultation process will close on 8 March 2022. We will assess the responses and evidence provided to inform detailed development of future policy and legislation.

Human Trafficking: Organised Crime

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the European Commission's proposed regulation 2021/0387 on measures against transport operators that facilitate or engage in trafficking in persons or smuggling of migrants, what assessment they have made of the effect the regulations could have on (1) air, (2) sea, (3) road, and (4) rail operators between the UK and the EU, particularly on the island of Ireland. [HL4985]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is a high level of cooperation on border security between both the UK and Irish Governments to ensure we are taking all the necessary measures to protect and secure the Common Travel Area, this includes people travelling from Ireland to the UK.

The Home Office, Ireland's Garda National Immigration Bureau and Border Management Unit, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other police forces work together to tackle abuse of the CTA by conducting intelligence-led checks and enforcement operations.

We continue to take a whole route approach in pursuing the crime groups who facilitate people smuggling to the UK and who exploit vulnerable migrants, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that UK humanitarian aid is accessible to all (1) religious, and (2) faith, communities, in

particular while the COVID-19 pandemic continues. [HL4895]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK works to ensure that all humanitarian assistance reaches the most in need, including those who may be vulnerable because of their religion or belief. As a core part of the UK pledge of up to £1.3 billion to respond to COVID-19, we are working to encourage state security responses that are transparent, proportionate and fair, and that respect international humanitarian law and promote human rights.

We work closely with our operational partners to ensure they rigorously assess vulnerability and needs, including those linked with religious identity and membership of faith communities as part of the humanitarian response process. This is enhanced by humanitarian actors speaking directly to those impacted, including members of affected communities and Faith-Based Organisations, and by reviewing historical data, media findings and other reports.

Hydrogen

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to finalise business models for hydrogen; and when any such business models will be published. [HL4669]

Lord Callanan: The Government has consulted on a business model to provide revenue support needed to stimulate investment in hydrogen projects. The Government is currently analysing stakeholder responses to the consultation and aims to publish a response in the first quarter of 2022 with a view to finalising the business model later in the year.

Hydrogen: Exports

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to facilitate the development of a hydrogen export market in the UK. [HL4670]

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase the role of hydrogen technology in the UK's export strategy. [HL4671]

Lord Callanan: The Hydrogen Strategy makes clear the government wants to position UK companies at the forefront of the growing global hydrogen market, and analysis suggests that around a quarter of new UK jobs in the hydrogen sector by 2030 could be driven by exports. UK companies are already leading the way by exporting fuel cell and electrolyser technologies and engineering services, and we want to expand on this to capture economic benefits. BEIS, DIT, UK Export Finance and others are working to identify high value opportunities for UK companies and to promote them globally. We will set

out more on our approach in a Hydrogen Sector Development Action Plan in 2022.

Hydrogen: Ministerial Responsibility

Asked by Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to create a Minister for Hydrogen. [HL4672]

Lord Callanan: My Rt Hon. Friend Minister Hands clearly has hydrogen within his portfolio. The appointment of Ministers is a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they created the Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority on 8 November; what were the reasons for the timetable for its creation; and what plans they have to monitor its activity to ensure there are no inconsistencies in decision making based on immigration status. [HL4899]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the existence of two trafficking and slavery decision makers (the Single Competent Authority and the Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority) does not result in differences in decision making based on immigration status. [HL4900]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the creation of the Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority, what training has been delivered to First Respondents to ensure that all adults identified as potential victims of trafficking are able to give informed consent to a referral. [HL4901]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (IECA) will streamline decision-making and ensure, wherever possible, that the various factors which may be pertinent to decisions about an individual are taken by those who can consider their circumstances most fully. IECA decision makers will receive the same training as the Single Competent Authority (SCA) on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision making.

Both competent authorities will be held to account through existing quality assurance processes and the Multi-Agency Assurance Panels will continue to quality assure all negative conclusive decisions. Decisions will continue to be made in line with the definitions and standards of proof in the published Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance.

The data on decisions taken by the IECA will be set out in the quarterly publication of NRM statistics and a breakdown by competent authority will be published once there is sufficient data to ensure individuals are not identifiable. Naturally, we will regularly review this data to understand the impact of the change and ensure policies are being applied consistently.

This Government remains committed to identifying victims quickly, enhancing the support they receive and improving the training given to First Responders, who are responsible for referring potential victims into the NRM.

The Home Office has produced e-learning to help First Responders to identify potential victims of modern slavery and make referrals into the NRM when appropriate to do so. The e-learning is available through the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) website.

Immigration: Exploitation

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many grants of discretionary leave to remain have been made to victims of (1) human trafficking, and (2) modern slavery, with a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism in the last three financial years. [HL4687]

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/human trafficking.

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at [on gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

The 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery has recently been published and can also be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), as well as statistics on immigration outcomes including figures for grants of discretionary leave.

Statistics on the immigration status and immigration outcomes for victims of modern slavery/human trafficking are not currently published.

Immunotherapy

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the NHS in England is monitoring the health outcomes of patients who no longer fit the new eligibility criteria for immunoglobulin use. [HL4725]

Lord Kamall: Clinicians are responsible for the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the health of their patients, using processes such as annual reviews and outpatient face-to-face or virtual appointments. Sub-regional immunoglobulin assessment panels provide oversight and scrutiny for all patients receiving immunoglobulin therapy.

Immunotherapy: Shortages

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what communications have been issued by the NHS in England about the immunoglobulin shortage to patient groups supporting people with immunodeficiency; and whether the NHS in England has communicated directly with patients to explain the situation and how it will affect them. [HL4726]

Lord Kamall: With the input of clinicians, professional bodies and patient groups, NHS England and NHS Improvement and the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network have developed a patient information leaflet which was issued to National Health Service trusts on 8 November 2021, with a request to discuss and share with patients as part of individual clinical conversations. NHS England and NHS Improvement have also shared the leaflet with patient groups to circulate to affected members.

The patient information leaflet highlights that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer people have been able to donate blood, which has impacted the availability of immunoglobulin products both globally and in the United Kingdom. The patient information leaflet also explains what the impact of the global shortage of immunoglobulin products may mean for UK patients and how they can access support. A copy of the patient leaflet, *Immunoglobulin replacement therapy: Information for patients from the NHS and the UK Primary Immunodeficiency Network* is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Immunoglobulin replacement therapy: Information fo
[B0910_i_Immunoglobulin - patient information
leaflet_041121.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-06/HL4726>

Import Duties

Asked by **Lord Borwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Grimstone of Boscobel on 14 December (HL Deb, col 130), what was the total amount in import tariffs collected in (1) financial year 2020–21, and (2) each of the preceding four years. [HL4995]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: In the financial year 2020–21, HMRC received £2,962 million in Customs Duty receipts.

In the preceding four years, HMRC received the following yearly amounts for Customs Duty:

2016-2017	£3,359 million
2017-2018	£3,412 million
2018-2019	£3,356 million

2019-2020

£3,287 million

Income Tax

Asked by **Lord Macpherson of Earl's Court**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in order to estimate the revenue yield of a one per cent increase on all income tax rates payable on property income, they can draw on the data in Table 3.7 from the Survey of Personal Incomes, which compiles numbers of taxpayers and associated estimates of property income. [HL4840]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: While the Survey of Personal Incomes offers information on the amounts of property income received by Income Tax payers, additional analysis would be required to assess the revenue raised by increasing the rates of Income Tax on property income. This would need to include an assessment of interactions with other aspects of Income Tax, such as the application of allowances and thresholds and the behavioural response to the policy change.

The Government has not made an assessment of the revenue that would be raised by increasing income tax rates applicable to property income by one per cent.

Incontinence: Health Services

Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to produce a revised version of the Excellence in Continence Care Guidelines, published on 23 July 2018; and what stakeholders they have consulted on this. [HL4149]

Lord Kamall: NHS England currently has no plans to produce a revised version of Excellence in Continence Care.

Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training on Overactive Bladder care is provided to General Practitioners to help patient (1) diagnosis, and (2) referral to secondary care settings. [HL4150]

Lord Kamall: Each medical school in England sets its own undergraduate curriculum which must meet the standards set by the General Medical Council (GMC). The GMC would expect that, in fulfilling these standards, newly qualified doctors are able to identify, treat and manage any care needs a person has, including bladder conditions. General practitioners (GPs) use their clinical judgement, aligned with clinical evidence, to assess when it is appropriate to seek specialist expertise and refer the patient. GPs will first try resolve the issue in primary care and then refer to clinics for specialist assessment in secondary care.

The training curricula for postgraduate trainee doctors is set by the relevant Royal College and must also meet

the standards set by the General Medical Council. The Royal College of General Practitioners' curriculum is designed to integrate with the GMC's generic professional capabilities framework, including clinical management and referrals to other care settings. Overactive bladder syndrome is listed in the clinical topic guides that supplement the curriculum.

India: Detainees

Asked by Lord Hussain

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of India to advocate for the release of human rights activists in that country, including Khurram Parvez. [HL4756]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government will continue to encourage all states to ensure domestic laws are in line with international standards and to cooperate with UN human rights officials and all mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. Our position is clear, that any allegation of human rights abuse is deeply concerning and must be investigated thoroughly, promptly and transparently.

We engage with India on a range of human rights matters, and we raise our concerns directly with the Government of India, including at ministerial level, where we have them.

Influenza

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential severity of the 2021/22 flu season; and what steps they intend to take to mitigate the impact of flu on the National Health Service this winter. [HL5024]

Lord Kamall: The UK Health Security Agency routinely monitors flu activity, with the latest information showing that levels of flu in circulation have remained low to date.

To minimise the risk of flu circulating this winter, providers will offer the flu vaccine to over 35 million people. The expansion of the programme includes a further offer of vaccination for those aged 50 to 64 years old and secondary school Year 11 to prevent onward transmission to vulnerable members of the community. We have also secured a central stock of flu vaccines in addition to stocks held locally.

Influenza: Vaccination

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to ensure that there will remain a multi-supplier market for flu vaccine procurement in future seasons. [HL5026]

Lord Kamall: The flu vaccine market is complex with multiple manufacturers and products which are recommended for different cohorts. Each year the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations makes recommendations on which products should be used for each cohort. New products and technologies are emerging and the Department works closely with the industry to look at the future of flu vaccines. Furthermore, for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 seasons, the Department supported the introduction of new, quadrivalent recombinant flu vaccines to diversify the flu vaccine market and ensure a wide range of products are available now and in the future.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is a robust flu vaccine supply chain in place through the winter season. [HL5027]

Lord Kamall: General practitioners and other providers are responsible for ordering flu vaccine supplies directly from manufacturers. The Department is in regular contact with stakeholders to ensure there is a robust supply chain throughout the winter. The Department has also secured additional central stock which are available for delivery should providers in England require more flu vaccines. Deliveries are typically phased between September and December with the majority of flu vaccines distributed to providers in the United Kingdom.

Inland Waterways: Sewage

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what penalties can be applied against individual directors of water companies who recklessly or repeatedly discharge unpermitted sewage into waterways. [HL4838]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: There is a range of legal powers available to Defra and its regulators, such as the Environment Agency, to hold company directors to account when they cause or knowingly permit a breach of environmental regulations. These powers are used regularly to hold directors to account, including where necessary bringing forward criminal proceedings.

If successful, prosecution can lead to company director(s) being fined, imprisoned, handed a suspended sentence, ordered to do unpaid community work, and disqualified from holding office as a director for a fixed period of up to fifteen years.

Iran: Demonstrations

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Iran following the use of force against protesters in Isfahan in recent weeks. [HL4757]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK firmly supports the right to peaceful protest and has designated Iran as a

Human Rights Priority Country. We continue to take action with the international community to press Iran to improve its poor human rights record, and call on President Raisi to set Iran on a different course, which includes committing to improving human rights in Iran.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the government of Iran has developed a system to create nuclear weapons. [HL4761]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Iran has been in non-compliance with its Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) commitments since 2019. Its nuclear programme is now more advanced than ever before.

We are currently engaged in negotiations in Vienna aimed at restoring the JCPoA. Iran must now decide whether to conclude the fair and comprehensive deal on the table, for the benefit of the Iranian people and economy, or collapse the JCPoA. In this scenario, we would carefully consider all the options in partnership with our allies.

Iran: Politics and Government

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what ministerial contact they have had with the new President of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, since he was sworn into office in August. [HL4878]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are in regular contact with the Iranian Government. At ministerial level, the Foreign Secretary spoke with Iranian Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian on 22 September and 8 November, and the Minister for Middle East and North Africa spoke with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Bagheri Kani on 11 November. The Prime Minister wrote to President Raisi after he was elected, urging him to engage with the UK on a range of issues, including our nuclear concerns, our consular cases, human rights and Iran's role in the region. Our officials, including those in the British Embassy in Tehran, also regularly engage with Iran on a wide range of issues.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British troops are serving in Iraq; and in what capacity such troops are serving. [HL5022]

Baroness Goldie: At the request of the Iraqi Government, 151 personnel are deployed to Iraq in support of the Global Coalition against Daesh.

UK personnel are deployed in an 'advise, assist, enable' capacity, serving in support of the Iraqi Security Forces to ensure the enduring defeat of Daesh.

Iraq: Turkey

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to ask participants at the 26th conference of State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to investigate reports of Turkish Forces using (1) tabun, and (2) other poisonous gases, in the Behdinan region of Iraq. [HL4684]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom opposes the use of chemical weapons in all circumstances. We take any credible evidence of the use of chemical weapons very seriously. We have been monitoring the recent allegations of chemical weapons use in northern Iraq but the allegations remain unsubstantiated. Any evidence should be shared with States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and provided through appropriate channels to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat. Recent violent protests in connection with these allegations targeting the OPCW headquarters in The Hague were deeply concerning.

We continue to reiterate the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security and protect civilians. We welcome discussions between Iraqi and Turkish Defence Ministers regarding Ankara's military operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a proscribed terrorist group, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The Foreign Secretary discussed the stability of Iraq and the KRI with KRI President, Nechirvan Barzani, during his visit to London of 15-17 September.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of allegations that the government of Turkey is deploying chemical weapons in northern Iraq; and what plans they have to support an independent inquiry into their deployment by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. [HL4711]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom opposes the use of chemical weapons in all circumstances. We take any credible evidence of the use of chemical weapons very seriously. We have been monitoring the recent allegations of chemical weapons use in northern Iraq but the allegations remain unsubstantiated. Any evidence should be shared with States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and provided through appropriate channels to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Turkish airstrikes in Khanasor, Iraq

and the reported targeting of Marwan Badal; and whether they have made representations to the government of Turkey about their attacks in Sinja, Iraq; and if so, what response they have received. [[HL4750](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of reports of airstrikes and the death of Yekîneyên Berxwedana Şengalê (YBS) commander Marwan Badal Khudida. We continue to reiterate the importance of dialogue and cooperation between Iraq and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security and protect civilians.

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the use of chemical weapons in Northern Iraq by the government of Turkey. [[HL4887](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom opposes the use of chemical weapons in all circumstances. We take seriously any credible evidence of the use of chemical weapons. We monitor closely allegations of chemical weapons use in northern Iraq. These remain unsubstantiated. Evidence of chemical weapons use should be provided through appropriate channels to the Technical Secretariat Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Islam: Discrimination

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to appoint the second independent expert to consider the definition of Islamophobia. [[HL4705](#)]

Lord Greenhalgh: This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious prejudice. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred.

We will outline our next steps with the review on the Definition of Islamophobia in due course, following the publication of the forthcoming Hate Crime Strategy.

Israel: Defence and Trade Agreements

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how goods produced in the Israeli settlements should be treated in negotiations on trade and defence with the government of Israel. [[HL4915](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK does not recognise the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including Israeli settlements, as part of Israel. Goods imported from the settlements are therefore not entitled to benefit from trade preferences under the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement. The UK also supports accurate labelling of settlement goods, so as not to mislead the

consumer. There are currently no plans for legislation to ban the import of products from Israeli settlements.

Israel: Golan Heights

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 22 November ([HL3795](#)) detailing the steps they are taking regarding Russia's occupation of Crimea, what steps they are taking regarding Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights. [[HL4835](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK position on the status of the Occupied Golan Heights is well-known and has not changed. In line with international law, and relevant Security Council resolutions, notably Resolutions 242 and 497, we do not recognise Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, including the Golan Heights, and we do not consider them part of the territory of the State of Israel. Annexation of territory by force is prohibited under international law. Any declaration of a unilateral border change goes against the foundation of the rules-based international order and the UN Charter.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of comments made by UN Mideast envoy, Tor Wennesland, on 18 November to the UN Security Council concerning (1) the need to reduce the activities of the government of Israel in and around Jerusalem and the West Bank, (2) the importance of financial stability for the Palestinian Authority so it can pay salaries, and (3) the need to halt to settlement activities. [[HL4739](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to urge the Government of Israel to permanently end its settlement expansion and settlement activity in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Minister Cleverly raised UK opposition to settlement expansion with the Government of Israel on 9 November. We share the concerns of the UN Middle East Envoy over the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s fiscal crisis and are actively working to help mitigate it. The UK has a substantial technical assistance programme within the Palestinian Ministry of Finance, strengthening public financial management. This programme is credited by the Palestinian Minister of Finance with helping to increase domestic revenues. We are also actively working with the PA and Government of Israel to resolve a number of long-standing issues that have the potential to substantially increase the clearance revenues collected by Israel on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

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

Israel concerning the targeting of Palestinian medics by Israeli border police. [HL4914]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has repeatedly made clear to Israel our longstanding concerns about the manner in which the Israel Defence Forces police non-violent protests and the border areas. We also regularly raise the importance of the Israeli security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, which includes Palestinian medics attempting to provide services.

Japan: Embassies

Asked by Lord Goodlad

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for the future of the British Embassy in Tokyo. [HL5013]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As part of our worldwide programme to modernise our diplomatic estate, we are planning significant re-investment in our Tokyo compound. This will ensure our Embassy office is modern and sustainable, and fit for purpose for supporting the enduring and strong partnership between the UK and Japan.

Job Creation and Job Security: Yorkshire and the Humber

Asked by Baroness Redfern

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the development of Drax into the world's first carbon neutral industrial cluster on (1) safeguarding existing jobs, and (2) creating new green skilled jobs, in Yorkshire and the Humber. [HL4913]

Lord Callanan: In November 2020, the Government published the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, which set out the government's ambition to have two operational industrial clusters by the mid-2020s and a further two clusters operational by 2030. The CCUS programme will contribute to the creation of high skilled, high wage and sustainable jobs in every part of the UK, with the expectation of supporting up to 50,000 jobs in 2030[1]. The Net Zero Strategy outlined an ambition to deploy at least 5MtCO₂/yr of engineered removals by 2030, in line with CCC and National Infrastructure Commission assessments. Our long-term approach to engineered GGR technologies, which includes technologies used by Drax, is to have a market-driven and technology-neutral competitive framework. We intend to assess jobs, the type scale and CO₂ emission reduction potential, as part of the evaluation and selection process of GGR projects.

[1] *Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener; Green Jobs Taskforce*

Judges: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the number of lawyers from ethnic minorities who go on to become judges. [HL4973]

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many lawyers from ethnic minorities were appointed as judges in each of the years since 2015. [HL4974]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The most recent 2021 Judicial Diversity statistics indicate that while the proportion of Asian and mixed ethnicity individuals in the judiciary has increased since 2014, the proportion of Black judges has stayed the same. On 9 December 2021, the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) published an Ad Hoc Analysis of Candidate Progression Through Judicial Selection Tools, which reported that in legal exercises, success rates for Black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates were lower, even when other significant factors were held constant. The JAC is leading further investigation into the types of professional pools from which legally qualified candidates are drawn and how this may be playing a part in the observed disparities.

The table below reports the number of applicants who declared they came from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds that the JAC recommended for judicial appointment in each financial year from 2015/16 onwards (data is not available by calendar year) and as a percentage of the overall recommendations. The figures are for legal judicial appointments and do not include any data on non-legal judicial appointments.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Number of recommendations for judicial appointments (per financial year) that declared as coming from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background</i>	<i>Percentage of all those recommended for judicial appointment who declared as coming from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background</i>
2015 – 2016	19	9%
2016 – 2017	9	6%
2017 – 2018	44	9%
2018 – 2019	81	11%
2019 – 2020	101	12%
2020 – 2021	46	14%

The total number of recommendations the JAC makes varies each year depending on which exercises are run.

Actual appointments rather than recommendations for appointment have only been reported since 2020. There were 21 new Black, Asian and minority ethnic lawyers appointed as judges in 2019/20 and 42 in 2020/21. There can be a time lag between JAC recommending candidates and the appointment being made. These numbers do not

include judges that have moved office or been promoted in year and do not include appointments of non-legal tribunal members.

Judicial Review and Courts Bill

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the Judicial Review and Courts Bill meets their aspirations in this policy area. [HL4733]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Judicial Review and Courts Bill delivers on the Government's Manifesto commitment to ensure that Judicial Review is available to protect the rights of individuals against an overbearing state, without being abused to conduct politics by another means or to create needless delays.

The Bill reduces inefficiency by overturning the *Cart* judgment and creates new powers for the courts to modify quashing orders, allowing them to tailor their decisions more closely to the circumstances of individual cases.

The courts elements of the Bill contains measures to streamline procedures across the justice system. It gives the criminal courts powers to progress cases more quickly, avoid unnecessary hearings, and ensure cases are heard in the most appropriate court at the earliest opportunity. This will save court time so that resources can be focused on trials and on reducing the backlog.

Judiciary: Domestic Abuse

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many meetings ministers have had with (1) the President of the Family Division, and (2) the Chair of the Judicial College, since April; and in how many of those meetings judicial training on domestic abuse was discussed. [HL4867]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: Since April 2021, ministers have met with the senior judiciary regularly to discuss a range of issues related to the administration of the justice system and the courts and tribunals.

To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice (LCJ), the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively. These responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College. The judiciary and professional staff in the Judicial College are responsible for the design, content, and delivery of judicial training.

Judiciary: Training

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Judicial College has updated training on domestic abuse since April. [HL4868]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice (LCJ), the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively. These responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College. The judiciary and professional staff in the Judicial College are responsible for the design, content, and delivery of judicial training.

I understand that, since April this year, the Chair of the Judicial College, in consultation with the President of the Family Division, has led work to review judicial training on domestic abuse. Refreshed and updated specialist digital training on domestic abuse was launched in October 2021 for all family judges, including Recorders and Deputy District Judges. In addition, from October 2021, new digital domestic abuse training is being rolled out to meet the needs of all magistrates and legal advisers.

New training that addresses the attitudinal and behavioural issues raised in recent caselaw, the MoJ Harm Report and the Domestic Abuse Act will be rolled out from April 2022 and will form a substantial part of compulsory family and civil continuation training seminars for the 2022/23 training year.

Kids Company

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much public money was spent by the Official Receiver on the High Court case against Kids Company. [HL4889]

Lord Callanan: The Official Receiver has paid the following costs in connection with the Keeping Kids Company Limited directors' disqualification proceedings:

- i) Defendants' legal costs pursuant to the Judgement of Mrs Justice Falk: £8,249,890;
- ii) Official Receiver's external legal costs (including solicitors' and counsels' fees and other disbursements): £1,274,022; and
- iii) Data hosting costs: £8,612.

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any of Kids Company's former (1) trustees, or (2) chief executives, received any public money to contest the Official Receiver case; and if so, what was the full breakdown of all costs incurred. [HL4890]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: This Government has no record of any such payments to Kids Company's former trustees or chief executives.

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the Charity Commission will publish their report into the collapse of Kids Company. [HL4891]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Owing to the Official Receiver's investigation, aspects of the Commission's inquiry were placed on hold pending the outcome of the subsequent High Court proceedings. The High Court issued its detailed judgement on 12 February 2021. The Commission intends to publish its inquiry report as soon as possible.

The Commission's published guidance CC46 (statutory inquiries into charities) sets out some of the factors that determine the length of a statutory inquiry. These can include, for example, the complexity of the issues involved, and the involvement of other regulators and/or statutory agencies. In the case of Keeping Kids Company, separate High Court proceedings under the Company Directors Disqualification Act have been a factor.

As well as having a direct impact on the charity, its beneficiaries, staff and supporters, the collapse of Kids Company had a wider effect on public confidence in charities, so it is important that lessons are learned for the future.

Landfill: Health Hazards

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on public health of toxic air from landfill sites. [HL4837]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Operators of landfill sites are required to apply to the Environment Agency (EA) for an Environmental Permit before operations can commence. During the application process the EA assesses the impact of emissions to air from landfills on the environment and human health. The EA also assesses emissions during routine check monitoring and in response to specific incidents.

Whenever there are concerns over potential impacts on human health the relevant data is forwarded to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) as the Government body responsible for protecting the health of communities. The predecessor to UKHSA, the Health Protection Agency, published advice in 2011 on the impacts on health of emissions from landfill sites. The report concluded that a well-managed modern landfill site does not pose a significant risk to human health. This advice remains consistent with the research sponsored by Defra in 2004, which was reviewed by the Royal Society. The UKHSA works with the EA to ensure that individual landfill sites do not contribute significantly to ill-health.

Libya: Overseas Aid

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much overseas development funding they provide to the government of Libya; and whether any such funding finances migrant detention centres. [HL4958]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK does not provide any direct financial support to the Libyan Government or its agencies, and we do not provide funding to detention centres. We support the UN's call for detention centres across Libya to be closed.

Libya: Undocumented Migrants

Asked by Baroness Helic

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of abuse, particularly sexual violence, of migrants detained in Libya. [HL4959]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is appalled by abuses of migrants and refugees in Libya and the inhumane conditions in detention centres. We continue to urge the interim Government of National Unity to take steps to end the exploitation and abuse of migrants and to implement a better functioning system that respects human rights. We support the UN's call for detention centres across Libya to be closed, and call on all parties to engage with the UN and the humanitarian community so that all migrants and refugees can be evacuated safely in accordance with international human rights law. We have consistently called for all sexual and gender based violence to end, including through UN Security Council Resolutions and at the UN Human Rights Council and reinforced this in our engagement with the Government of National Unity.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what assessment they have made of reports that Frontex has worked with the Libyan authorities to secure the return of migrants from outside of Libya's territorial waters and that this has led to deprivations of human rights for migrants, and (2) what plans they have, if any, to make representations to the EU Commission regarding this action. [HL4962]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We call on all parties to engage with the UN and the humanitarian community so that all migrants and refugees can be evacuated safely in accordance with international human rights law.

Life Imprisonment

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the minimum term served in custody for people given (1) a mandatory life sentence, (2) an automatic life sentence, and (3) a discretionary life sentence, in each of the last five years. [HL4826]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice holds data on the minimum period served in custody for the relevant sentences covering the period requested and this can be viewed in the attached table.

We are unable to provide separate data relating to those offenders who are given automatic and discretionary life sentences. The minimum period served in custody for both these groups of offenders is listed under ‘other lifers’.

Equivalent data for the average (mean and median) time served for those released from Mandatory Life sentences and ‘Other life’ sentences can be found in Table A3.3 which is also attached. For those released in 2020, prisoners released from Mandatory Life sentences served 17 years on average (mean) and 15 years (median).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2021-12-23 HL4826 data.xlsx]

Table [Table A3.3.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-09/HL4826>

Livestock: Dogs

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the threat to livestock from dogs not under control of their owners. [HL4802]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government takes the issue of livestock worrying very seriously, recognising the distress this can cause farmers and animals as well as the financial implications, which can be very significant.

Following recent reports on the issue, including by the National Police Chiefs' Council, we are taking forward recommendations to modernise the relevant legal framework (the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953) for dealing with incidents of dogs attacking or worrying livestock.

We have carried out targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups representing interested parties, including roundtable events. This approach has allowed us to build consensus and reach a significant level of technical detail in terms of our policy development and consultation. Representatives from the police, farming and livestock associations, veterinary bodies and dog welfare groups have all been engaged in this process.

We have introduced these changes in the current Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill. Through this Bill we are enhancing the enforcement mechanisms available to the police and expanding the scope of livestock species and locations covered by the law. These improved powers will enable the police to respond to livestock worrying incidents more effectively – making it easier for them to collect evidence and, in the most serious cases, seize and detain dogs to reduce the risk of further incidents.

Loans: Ukraine

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money they are lending to the government of Ukraine to buy UK military equipment; and what assessment have they made of the likelihood of British taxpayers being repaid that loan. [HL5067]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: As part of a cross-Whitehall effort to support the £1.7bn Ukraine Naval capabilities Enhancement programme (UNCEP), UK Export Finance (UKEF) has committed to provide a £750m direct government-to-government loan, as well as guarantees to support lending for the remainder of the financing.

UKEF is open for cover in Ukraine and as is the case for all transactions, will charge a fee for the provision of guarantees or direct lending that reflects the risks involved.

Local Government: Coronavirus

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, whether local government bodies can hold meetings remotely if they choose. [HL4983]

Lord Greenhalgh: A High Court judgement handed down on 27 April 2021 confirmed that the Local Government Act 1972 specifies that council meetings must take place in person at a single, specified, geographical location and being “present” at such a meeting involves physical presence at that location.

This judgement confirmed that the regulations which allowed local authorities to meet remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic did not apply to meetings after 6 May 2021.

Any permanent change would require primary legislation, and would depend upon Parliamentary time being available.

Non-statutory or other informal meetings where local authorities deem that in-person attendance is not required can be held virtually.

Manufacturing Industries: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a Build Back Better fund to help the manufacturing sector recover after COVID-19. [HL5035]

Lord Callanan: The Government is, and will continue to be, a champion of the needs of business and industry, including the UK manufacturing sector. This is why the principles of our Plan for Growth, and its supporting strategies will put the UK at the forefront of opportunities, give businesses the confidence to invest, boost

productivity across the UK, enable our green industrial revolution, and support our vision for Global Britain.

As part of the Spending Review, my Rt hon Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Made Smarter Adoption programme award of £24 million for the period covering 2022-25 to help manufacturing SMEs increase productivity, competitiveness and drive-up efficiency by adopting industrial digital technology. This funding is in addition to the £8 million committed to the programme for the period covering 2021-22 and builds on the success of the £20 million North West pilot.

Mathematics: Investment

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what percentage of the annual investment in the mathematical sciences has been in pure mathematics and not invested in mathematics defined as maths of the "physical and material universe" in the past five years; and (2) what percentage of such annual investment is planned for future expenditure. [HL4930]

Lord Callanan: The UK is a world leader in Mathematics. British mathematicians publish a large volume of highly regarded work. When compared to international colleagues, British mathematicians have the 5th largest share of publications in the world. When looking at the top 1% of most cited publications, UK mathematicians are responsible for the third largest share.

Between Financial Year 2015-2016 and September 2021, UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) council the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) committed £259.9m to research grants Mathematical Sciences. This includes commitment from the Additional Funding Programme. At this time, EPSRC are unable to make a direct comparison between specific types of Mathematics.

Following the Government's announcement in January 2020 to invest additional funding into Mathematical Sciences, UKRI has awarded around £104 million of additional funding to the discipline, over and above EPSRC's core Mathematical Sciences Theme budget. The additional funding has covered institutes, small and large research grants, fellowships, doctoral studentships and postdoctoral awards.

On the 27 October 2021, the Government announced the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. BEIS and UKRI will now set out how we meet the commitment to invest additional funding into Mathematical sciences in forthcoming years, as part of the allocations process.

Medical Equipment: Procurement

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to (1) repeal section 32 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 relating to procurement of

medical supplies during emergencies such as pandemics, and (2) amend the Health and Care Bill to make provision for new public procurement policies during times of emergency or pandemics based on transparency, accountability and value for public money. [HL5037]

Lord Kamall: The Government is transforming the regulatory framework for public procurement following the publication of a Green Paper last year. This work is being led by the Cabinet Office. Following a consultation exercise and as set out in the Government response to the consultation exercise published in December 2021, the Government proposes to retain provision allowing limited tendering in situations of extreme urgency brought about by unforeseeable events (Regulation 32(2)(c) in the Public Contracts Regulations). However, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed some uncertainty in applying Regulation 32 where the situation is prolonged or evolving and new measures will set out clear arrangements for how procurement should be conducted, including in situations where extreme urgency is a factor.

The Health and Care Bill does not include provisions for new public procurement policies during times of emergency or pandemics as this is a matter for the Cabinet Office's regulatory framework for public procurement.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency: Staff

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address staff capacity issues within the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to ensure that patients get treatments in a timely manner. [HL4491]

Lord Kamall: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is moving to a focused and integrated organisational model to improve the outcomes it delivers for patients and the public. The MHRA has designed its proposed structure around the lifecycle of a product: science; research and innovation; healthcare; quality and access; and safety and surveillance. This will refocus its resources to ensure that new treatments are licensed and delivered more quickly. While the MHRA will be a smaller organisation, it will retain and increase its scientific and regulatory capabilities.

Metropolitan Police: Stephen Port

Asked by Lord Lexden

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place in the Library of the House a copy of the Independent Office for Police Conduct's report on police failures in investigating the murders committed by Stephen Port in 2014 and 2015. [HL5016]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) is currently considering

whether to re-open its investigation in light of the evidence provided to the Coroner during the course of the inquests into the deaths of Anthony Walgate, Gabriel Kovari, Daniel Whitworth and Jack Taylor.

The IOPC will not publish the investigation report whilst consideration whether to re-open the investigation is ongoing so as not to prejudice any potential future proceedings.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with (1) the government of Israel, and (2) Palestinian representatives, about the Middle East peace process. [[HL4981](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains committed to making progress towards a two-state solution. The Foreign Secretary discussed the Middle East Peace Process with Israeli FM Lapid on 29 November and Minister Cleverly raised with Deputy FM Roll on 9 November. Minister Cleverly met with Israeli Minister Frej and Palestinian Prime Minister Shtayyeh on 17 November in Oslo at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee.

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, (1) to strengthen the Abraham Accords, and (2) to expand those accords to additional nations. [[HL4982](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The United Kingdom (UK) warmly welcomed the normalisation agreements between Israel, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, and Sudan. These were historic steps which see the normalisation of relations between friends of the UK.

Restoring cooperation is an important and constructive step towards peace, and shows both sides are willing to put the needs and security of both Israelis and Palestinians first. We need to build on this momentum through further dialogue and compromise to move towards a two state solution and a lasting solution to the conflict. The United Kingdom will continue to work towards a more peaceful and prosperous future for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Ministers: Codes of Practice

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks made by Lord True on 6 December (HL Deb, col 1640), what was the case that was determined relating to the operation of the Ministerial Code; which (1) ministers, and (2) officials, were involved; and what plans they have, if any, to place a copy of (a) a report by the independent advisor concerning the Transport Secretary's declaration of private interests, or (b) any other report, in the Library of the House. [[HL4862](#)]

Lord True: My answer to the noble Lord's question on 6 December 2021 referred to recent correspondence from the Rt Hon Member for Ashton-under-Lyne, in connection with the Government's policies towards General Aviation. The Minister for Aviation's response to the Opposition is a matter of public record.

The Independent Adviser, in relation to the question about the Secretary of State for Transport's interests, confirmed that he was content that the Transport Secretary had followed the process required under the Ministerial Code for the declaration of his private interests. It was this matter to which I was referring.

Mortgages: Misrepresentation

Asked by Lord McNicol of West Kilbride

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many skilled persons reports under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 section 166 the Financial Conduct Authority has commissioned where the issue of representative APR has been the matter concerned, in each of the last six years. [[HL5052](#)]

Asked by Lord McNicol of West Kilbride

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Financial Conduct Authority has decided not to make independent periodic checks on the compliance of Financial Conduct Authority regulations by authorised firms, particularly the accuracy of key consumer protection information such as representative APR. [[HL5053](#)]

Asked by Lord McNicol of West Kilbride

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has requested a firm to outline how it calculates its APR in the last six years, other than at the point granting authorisation; in any cases of representative APR breaches discovered, how many times the FCA has required changes to the firm's website and product literature; and how many firms have been referred to the enforcement department for resolution. [[HL5054](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: This question has been passed on to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA will reply directly to the noble Lord by letter. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Asked by Lord McNicol of West Kilbride

To ask Her Majesty's Government what independent information resource is available to consumers to check that representative APRs are fairly stated; and what action the Financial Conduct Authority advises customers to take where they are concerned they have been mis-sold under a representative APR that was not fairly stated. [[HL5051](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Firms are required by FCA rules to include a representative APR in certain circumstances. The FCA's handbook provides further

rules and guidance on when a representative APR must be shown, how it should be denoted and the level of prominence it must be given.

If an advertisement includes an interest rate or any amount relating to the cost of credit, it must also include a representative example. This must contain certain standard information including a representative APR. The example must be clear and concise and must be no less prominent than the information that triggered the inclusion of the example.

If a customer is concerned that they have been mis-sold a credit agreement, the customer can make a formal complaint to the firm in question in the first instance. If they feel that their complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily, they are able to refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) – an independent body set up to provide arbitration in such cases.

Myanmar: Rohingya

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the international community, specifically the UN Security Council, to secure justice for the Rohingyas subjected to human rights violations in Myanmar. [HL4952]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The coup has exacerbated the situation for the Rohingya who remain in Rakhine state, increasing the risk of further atrocities. We are monitoring political and security developments closely, to ensure continued access to and protection of the Rohingya and other vulnerable and conflict-affected groups. In Rakhine state the UK has provided over £44m to all communities since 2017, including over £25m for the Rohingya for support such as nutrition and health.

The UK secured UN Security Council Press Statements on 11 March and 10 November 2021, that expressed concern over the coup's impact on the Rohingya people and the prospect of voluntary, safe and dignified return to Myanmar. I [Lord Ahmad], also raised these issues with Bangladesh State Minister Shahriah Alam on 18th February.

Myanmar: Sanctions

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking with (1) the government of the (a) United States, and (b) Canada, and (2) the EU, to secure Magnitsky sanctions against those responsible for human rights violations in Myanmar. [HL4953]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has been at the forefront of the international sanctions response. Since 1 February, the UK has worked in partnership with the US, Canada and the EU, to impose sanctions on the junta. Immediately after the coup the UK used both the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and the Myanmar geographic regime to quickly impose sanctions. The UK

laid new sanctions regulations in April to allow us to better target the military's interests. We have sanctioned the junta's ruling body and its military leadership; as well as key revenue streams for the military, including three State Owned Enterprises, a high profile business associate, the two largest military conglomerates, and defence entities which arm and equip the military. These sanctions send a strong political message in opposition to the coup and undermine the credibility of the junta. They also target the military's funding streams and show solidarity with the domestic boycott movement.

Myanmar: Sexual Offences

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent sexual violence being used as a weapon of war against the Rohingya population, and others, in Myanmar; and what steps they are taking to help the victims of this crime. [HL4951]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is integrating survivor centred activities across its portfolio. Under our humanitarian programmes, partners are seeking to prevent all forms of gender based violence, including for the Rohingya. As part of this, the UK provides funding to organisations both in central and northern Rakhine for protection monitoring. Our partners are tracking human rights violations and atrocity risks, including conflict related sexual violence, enabling humanitarian actors to better respond to gendered protection needs. UK health programmes integrate gender-based violence prevention activities into health services, and provide psychosocial support to survivors. We have also funded the development of important minimum standards for remote case management for gender-based violence survivors.

The UK is building strong and inclusive women's movements nationwide, recognising that this is an evidence-based approach to preventing gender-based violence.

Napier Barracks: Coronavirus and Tuberculosis

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Secretary has (1) received, and (2) is complying with, advice from the UK Health Security Agency, regarding (a) the ongoing use of Napier Barracks, (b) the current COVID-19 outbreak in Napier Barracks, and (c) the current cases of active tuberculosis in Napier Barracks. [HL4897]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have not received any advice from UK Health Security Agency on the ongoing use of Napier however we continue to engage with UK Health Security Agency to ensure that COVID 19 is managed effectively on site.

I am not aware of any known COVID positive people at Napier.

There are no known cases of active tuberculosis at Napier, the one person identified by the NHS with active TB was, on the advice of UK Health Security Agency, moved to alternative accommodation on 14 December 21.

Natural Gas and Oil: Exports

Asked by Baroness Hayman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what countries North Sea oil and gas are exported to; and what quantity is exported to each country. [HL4681]

Lord Callanan: Export destinations of primary oils are published in the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics table 3.10](#).

Export destinations of natural gas are published in the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics table 4.5](#).

To note, the UK records exports of crude oil and natural gas but does not separately identify oil and gas that was originally extracted from the UKCS. Exports shown will include oil and gas produced in the North Sea as well as oil and gas that originated elsewhere and has subsequently been re-exported.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DUKES Table 3.10 [DUKES_Table 3.10.xls]

DUKES Table 4.5 [DUKES_Table 4.5.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-03/HL4681>

Asked by Baroness Hayman

To ask Her Majesty's Government what quantity of oil and gas is (1) exported from, and (2) imported to, the UK annually, for each different classification of those substances. [HL4683]

Lord Callanan: Imports and exports of primary oil are published in the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics table 3.1](#).

Imports and exports of petroleum products are published in the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics table 3.2](#).

Imports and exports of natural gas are published in the [Digest of UK Energy Statistics table 4.1](#).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

DUKES TABLE 3.1 [DUKES_Table 3.1.xls]

DUKES TABLE 3.2-3.4 [DUKES_Table 3.2-3.4.xls]

DUKES TABLE 4.1 [DUKES_Table 4.1.xls]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-03/HL4683>

Nepal: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they used when deciding to donate 131,000 doses of Astra-Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine bilaterally to the government of Nepal; and what were the reasons for those criteria. [HL4967]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is a leading donor to COVAX, the multilateral mechanism set up to support international co-operation on vaccines. We are donating a smaller quantity to bilateral partners and countries. The main objective of any donation is to promote the economic development and welfare of the recipient country, though we will also seek to strengthen key relationships, in line with the Integrated Review. Decisions are taken on a case by case basis, when vaccines are available to be donated.

The UK has provided £548 million to COVID, which has shipped over 610 million doses to 144 participants, including 4.3 million doses to Nepal. As G7 chair the UK also secured commitment to donate 1 billion doses to the developing world by June 2022, including 100 million donated by the UK. The majority of these doses will be donated to COVAX, which remains best-placed to allocate vaccines to where they will be most effective. The UK also funds the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank whose finance has enabled the Government of Nepal to purchase vaccines. This financing together with COVAX supplies can vaccinate 70% of the population of Nepal.

Newport Wafer Fab: China

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Callanan on 6 December (HL Deb, cols 1634–35), whether the purchase of Newport Wafer Fab will be considered under the terms of the National Security and Investment Act 2021 when it comes into force on 1 January 2022. [HL4782]

Lord Callanan: The Government is still considering the case. The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely and will not hesitate to take further action if needed.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply of Lord Callanan on 6 December (HL Deb, col 1635), whether the purchase of Newport Wafer Fab has been referred to the Competition and Merger Authority; and if so, what was the outcome. [HL4785]

Lord Callanan: My Rt. Hon Friend the Secretary of State has powers under the Enterprise Act 2002 to intervene in mergers and takeovers on specified public interest grounds, including national security. Such an intervention would involve an investigation by the Competition and Markets Authority.

NHS: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the consequences will be for frontline NHS staff who refuse to get vaccinated by 1 April 2022. [HL3955]

Lord Kamall: We continue to encourage all National Health Service staff to become vaccinated to help protect themselves, their colleagues and the people they care for. Over 92% of NHS staff have now done so.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment)(Coronavirus)(No.2) Regulations set out that a person who is unvaccinated against COVID-19 must not be deployed in the provision of Care Quality Commission-regulated activity subject to certain conditions. In instances where staff choose not to be vaccinated there may be an option, on a case by case basis, to move into a non-patient facing role.

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward proposals to dismiss all NHS staff who refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to 1 January 2022. [HL4993]

Lord Kamall: In light of the concerns raised by stakeholders about the potential impacts of these measures on workforce pressures and the pressures on services, particularly over winter, the Government has made the decision to include a grace period of 12 weeks in regulations. This grace period will mean an enforcement date of 1 April 2022, crucially avoiding the winter period and helping to minimise workforce pressures.

NHS: Migrant Workers

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to remove any barriers to employment by the NHS of health care professionals arriving from Hong Kong under the British National (Overseas) visa scheme. [HL4179]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the (1) Chief Medical, (2) Chief Dental, and (3) Chief Nursing Officers are taking to identify barriers to employment by the NHS in England of health care professionals arriving from Hong Kong under the British National (Overseas) visa scheme. [HL4180]

Lord Kamall: The Department is working across the health and care system and other Government departments to understand the needs of British Nationals Overseas visa holders with health and care experience and share best practice on providing supported routes to employment.

Northern Ireland Protocol

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether goods from Northern Ireland can continue to use GB packaging or must have (1) NI, or (2) EU, packaging, as a result of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland which requires Northern Ireland to abide by EU rules on single plastics. [HL4865]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: UK officials are continuing intensive discussions with EU counterparts regarding the NI Protocol and proposals as outlined in the Government's Command Paper. These will continue in the New Year.

Nuclear Weapons: Costs

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the costs that will be incurred as a result of the decision to renew and expand nuclear warhead production. [HL5043]

Baroness Goldie: The Replacement Warhead programme is in its early preliminary phases and it is therefore too early to provide a cost estimate at this stage.

Offshore Industry

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the costs of decommissioning (1) existing oil and gas infrastructure, and (2) extant oil and gas licences which have not yet been granted planning approval. [HL4848]

Lord Callanan: According to the Oil and Gas Authority's 'UKCS Decommissioning Cost Estimate 2021' report (copy attached), the total cost of decommissioning UK Continental Shelf offshore oil and gas infrastructure has reduced to £46bn[1] equating to a projected saving of nearly £14bn (23%) since the 2017 cost reduction target[2] was first established.

With extant oil and gas licences which have not yet been granted planning approval, we do not know which will be developed, so it is not possible to say how much they will cost to decommission, although the Oil and Gas Authority's UK Continental Shelf full portfolio estimate referenced in the report attached includes £2bn for planned but as yet unsanctioned/not-built projects.

[1] Costs shown in 2016 prices, for expenditure in 2017 and after.

[2] *Basis of 2017 estimate, 2016 Annual OGA Stewardship survey.*

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKCS Decommissioning Cost Estimate 2021 [HL4848 - ukcs_decomm_cost_estimate_2021_single_master.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-09/HL4848>

Offshore Industry: Tax Yields

Asked by **Baroness Sheehan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the net amount received in tax from North Sea oil and gas operations in each of the past six financial years, accounting for rebates and subsidies. [HL4849]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Government revenues received from North Sea oil and gas operations, net of allowable deductions and tax reliefs, are presented in HM Revenue & Customs's (HMRC) "*Statistics of government revenues from UK oil and gas production*" publication which is available on Gov.uk.

Offshore Structures: Assets

Asked by **Baroness Sheehan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of stranded assets in relation to the further development of fossil fuel extraction infrastructure. [HL4847]

Lord Callanan: The UK regulators, the Oil and Gas Authority and the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning have a role in the licensing of future offshore oil and gas developments, but whether to proceed with them is a commercial decision for the operators concerned. The risk of 'stranded assets' will be among the many risks operators consider when making investment decisions.

Oil: Exports

Asked by **Baroness Hayman**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Callanan on 2 December (HL Deb, col 1458), how much oil from the proposed development at Cambo is predicted to be exported; and whether future exports will be considered when deciding on planning consent for the Cambo oil field. [HL4682]

Lord Callanan: No decision has yet been made regarding the proposed Cambo field.

Out-of-school Education

Asked by **Baroness Blackstone**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms they have to monitor the number of children at risk in unregistered religious settings. [HL4991]

Baroness Barran: Local authorities are legally responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their areas, regardless of the educational setting they attend.

Where local authorities have safeguarding concerns, the department expects their services to intervene. There are a range of powers held by local agencies which can be utilised where concerns have been identified, for example, around health and safety, premises regulations and general safeguarding.

Where local authorities believe that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, they have a legal duty to investigate where necessary.

The department consulted in 2020 on widening the registration requirement to settings that operate full time but only offer a very narrow curriculum, which would include a number of full-time religious settings that are currently allowed to operate without having to register. The department will respond to this consultation soon, setting out next steps.

The department has also committed to taking forward measures to make it easier to investigate and prosecute unregistered schools, working with Ofsted and the Crown Prosecution Service. The department intends to take forward these measures when a suitable legislative opportunity arises.

Overseas Aid: Females

Asked by **Baroness Sugg**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what year they will use as a benchmark for the restoration of spending for women and girls to the level it was at before the reduction in Official Development Assistance announced this year. [HL5063]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are restoring funding for women and girls to pre-ODA cut levels over the Spending Review period, focusing on giving more girls a quality education; ending the extremely harmful practice of female genital mutilation, supporting girls' health; and ending the abhorrent use of sexual violence around the world.

Following the Spending Review, decisions on allocations and individual programmes will be published in the usual way.

Palestinians: Water Supply

Asked by **Baroness Sheehan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning the confiscation of a water pipe for Palestinian farmers in the Jordan Valley. [HL4738]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has raised the issue of access to water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities, including stressing the urgent need for Israel to take immediate and practical

measures to improve the current situation and ensure fair distribution of water in the West Bank. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. The UK regularly raises the issue of demolitions, confiscations and forced evictions of Palestinians from their homes with the Government of Israel, most recently with Israel's Ministry of Defence on 19 October.

Peat

Asked by Baroness Fookes

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total acreage of peatland in England; and how many acres are used for the production of peat for horticultural purposes. [HL5011]

Asked by Baroness Fookes

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much peat has been extracted from peatlands in England for horticultural purposes over the last five years for which statistics are available. [HL5012]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Peat is extracted in England for, primarily, horticultural purposes. Commercial extraction in England is licensed on approximately 664 hectares of peatland, across 29 sites. Whilst this represents less than 1% of England's peatlands, extraction is a major source of carbon emissions, causes biodiversity loss and destroys habitats.

Industry data tells us that in 2020 alone, 2.2 million cubic metres of peat were sold in the UK, 70% of which was imported.

Recent years have seen the development of a number of high-quality peat-free alternatives that are as effective as current peat-based options, many of which are much less damaging to the environment than using peat.

We are therefore continuing to focus on reducing demand for peat in horticulture in England, to protect peatlands at home and abroad. We have published a full consultation on ending the use of peat, with our preferred option being to ban the sale of peat and peat containing products in the amateur sector by the end of this Parliament. We are also turbo-charging current levels of peatland restoration through the Nature for Climate Fund, which will aim to provide funding for the restoration of approximately 35,000ha of peatland by 2025. This represents a tripling of historical average annual restoration levels.

More information about our actions to protect and restore our vulnerable peatlands is available at these links to the consultation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-retail-sale-of-peat-in-horticulture-in-england-and-wales>) and the England Peat Action Plan (England Peat Action Plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)). Relevant documents are also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

England Peat Action Plan [england-peat-action-plan.pdf]

Peat in horticulture consultation [Consultation Ending the retail sale of peat in horticulture in England and Wales.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-15/HL5011>

Peers: Correspondence

Asked by Lord Hain

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to respond to the letter sent by Lord Hain to the Secretary of State for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office sent on 1 December 2021 and 3 December 2021. [HL4788]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Officials have subsequently responded to the emails from the Noble Lord dated 1 and 3 December.

Penrith (North Lakes) Station

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to return to use the former Station Master's house at Penrith North Lakes Railway Station. [HL4992]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department has no plans to return to use the former Station Master's house at Penrith North Lakes railway station.

Philippines: Human Rights

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made, if any, to the government of the Philippines since June following reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that 208 human rights supporters and 6,000 individuals suspected of involvement in drug crime have been killed without fair trial; and what was the result of their representations. [HL4961]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains concerned about reports of human rights abuses in the Philippines, particularly the conduct of the "war on drugs" campaign and the treatment of some human and land rights defenders and journalists.

The Minister for Asia visited the Philippines from 7 to 10 October, where she raised our human rights concerns and discussed the Philippines' cooperation with the UN on a human rights joint programme with the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Teodoro Locsin.

PKK

Asked by Baroness Greengross

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made as to whether the Kurdistan Workers'

Party (PKK) poses a terrorist threat to the UK; and what assessment they have made of the ruling by the Court of Cassation in Belgium that the PKK is not a terrorist organisation. [[HL4888](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Partiya Karkeren Kurdistanî (PKK) has been proscribed as a terrorist organisation in the UK since 2001. The Government does not routinely comment on intelligence matters, including the threat posed by specific proscribed organisations.

The Terrorism Act 2000 allows the Home Secretary to proscribe a group if she has a reasonable belief that it is currently concerned in terrorism and proscription is proportionate action to take. It is this statutory test which the Government applies when considering whether to proscribe an organisation or maintain an extant listing.

Plastics: Waste

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reinvest Plastic Packaging Tax revenue to help achieve their target of eliminating avoidable plastic waste by 2042. [[HL4919](#)]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Plastic Packaging Tax will provide a clear economic incentive to use recycled material in the production of plastic packaging. This will create greater demand for recycled material and, in turn, stimulate increased levels of recycling and collection of plastic waste. As set out at Budget 2018 when the tax was first announced, future revenues raised from the tax will enable investment to address single-use plastics, waste and litter.

Alongside this, the government's commitments in the Resources and Waste Strategy will help to stimulate private investment in reprocessing and recycling infrastructure. The introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers alongside Collection and Packaging Reforms such as Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging and consistency in household and business recycling in England are expected to increase and incentivise appetite for commercial infrastructure investment.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 8 December (HL Deb col 1976) that draft guidance issued under Clause 65 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill is "open to anyone who wishes to comment", whether there is a formal consultation on the draft guidance; to whom comments should be made; and what is the deadline for such comments. [[HL4902](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The draft statutory guidance was published on gov.uk on 20 October to inform parliamentary debate of the new measures before votes on them were taken. The Government also carried

out two full public consultations on the measures in 2018 and 2019. All responses to these consultations were taken into account when the measures were designed, and the guidance drafted. Clause 65 of the Bill does not require further formal consultation on the statutory guidance.

Police: Equality

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the recruitment of black police officers. [[HL5032](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is clear that the police uplift is a once in a generation opportunity to increase the diversity of police officers in England and Wales. This includes increasing the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic recruits.

It is encouraging to see that the proportion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic officers is growing and is at its highest since comparable records began. There are now over 10,000 officers from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background in forces across England and Wales however there is much more to be done and forces cannot be complacent.

Through the Police Uplift Programme, we are supporting all forces with a variety of attraction and recruitment strategies, whilst delivering a national campaign designed to reach diverse audiences. Sharing best practice, engagement with police staff associations, upskilling recruitment teams and enhanced data capture are just some of the efforts being made to improve police diversity.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to include roads policing within the national Strategic Policing Requirement. [[HL4827](#)]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) will set clear direction to policing on the contribution they need to make to respond to national threats including terrorism, serious and organised crime and child sexual abuse. It will highlight where police forces need to work together, using local and/or regional capabilities, to protect the public. Following the SPR review that we concluded earlier this year, we are considering the national threats and policing capabilities, such as roads policing, that are included in the SPR. The revised SPR will be published in due course.

Pornography: Internet

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to introduce age verification for commercial pornography websites. [[HL4749](#)]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The strongest protections in the draft Online Safety Bill are for children. Companies in scope of the legislation will need to take steps to prevent children from accessing content which poses the highest risk of harm, including online pornography. Ofcom will set out in its codes of practice the steps companies need to take to comply with their duties under the Bill which we expect will include recommending the use of age verification technologies.

The Government recognises the concerns that have been raised about protecting children from online pornography on services which do not currently fall within the scope of the Bill. The Government is exploring ways to provide wider protections for children from online pornography.

The Joint Committee scrutinising the Bill reported with their recommendations on 14 December. We will consider the Committee's recommendations and are committed to introducing the Bill as soon as possible.

Power Failures: Storms

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the process for claiming compensation for losses from power outages caused by Storm Arwen for (1) households, and (2) businesses. [HL4688]

Lord Callanan: Ofgem, the independent regulator for the UK's energy networks, sets service levels which Distribution Network Operators must meet, with rules on how and when compensation payments are issued to consumers if the standards are not met. This is set out in the Quality of Service Guaranteed Standards. Customers should contact their Electricity Distribution Network Operator to claim any compensation that they are entitled to.

My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has written to Ofgem and the Electricity Distribution Network Operators to set an expectation that compensation should be paid as soon as possible given the length of the disruption to power supplies.

Prerogative of Mercy

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wolfson of Tredegar on 18 November (HL4189), why their records only date back to 2014; whether they were transferred to other government departments; and if so, which ones. [HL4755]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The previous answer of 2014 referred to above was an error. Records held in the Ministry of Justice date back to May 2003 and the answer should have been clear that records therefore date back 18 years. We now know that records were originally held by the Home Office and were transferred to the Ministry of

Justice after it was created in May 2007. These records are selected for permanent preservation and are transferred to The National Archives. I can confirm that no applications for Royal Prerogative of Mercy were recommended to Her Majesty the Queen for terrorism related offences during this time.

Prison Sentences

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the minimum period served in custody for people given (1) extended determinate sentences, (2) an extended sentence of detention, and (3) a sentence for offenders of particular concern, in each of the last five years. [HL4825]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: No prisoners serving a sentence for offenders of particular concern were released in 2016 as the sentence was only introduced in 2015.

The Ministry of Justice holds data on the minimum period served in custody for the relevant sentences covering the period requested and this can be viewed in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2021-12-23 HL4825 data.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-09/HL4825>

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently in prison are serving a custodial sentence of (1) less than or equal to six months, (2) greater than six months and less than 12 months, (3) 12 months to less than four years, (4) four years to less than 10 years, (5) 10 years or more, excluding indeterminate sentences, (6) life sentences, (7) IPP sentences, and (8) extended determinate sentences; and what is the ethnicity breakdown in each category. [HL4939]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice holds the data on the number of people currently in prison broken down by the sentence categories required and the ethnicity breakdown in each of those categories.

These data can be viewed in the attached table.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2021-12-30 HL4939 - Data.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-14/HL4939>

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people currently in prison self-describe their ethnicity as (1)

black, (2) mixed race, (3) Asian, (4) white, and (5) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, and are aged (a) 15–17, (b) 18–20, (c) 21–24, (d), 25–29, (e) 30–39, (f) 40–49, (g) 50–59, (h) 60–69, and (i) 70 and over. [HL4938]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The attached table shows the numbers of prisoners aged (a) 15–17, (b) 18–20, (c) 21–24, (d), 25–29, (e) 30–39, (f) 40–49, (g) 50–59, (h) 60–69, and (i) 70 and over, broken down by ethnicity as (1) black, (2) mixed race, (3) Asian, and (4) white as of 30 June 2020.

There are no current plans to alter the ethnic groups for the regular quarterly published data on the prison population. The broad categories included in the information released are in line with current guidance from the Race Disparity Unit of the Cabinet Office.

Numbers self-designating as ‘Irish Traveller or Gypsy’ are published as part of a more detailed data set which is released annually as part of the series Offender Management Statistics Quarterly. The most recent release of this data formed part of the January to March 2021 issue, published in July 2021. Figures were included in Table A1.9ii of the Annual Prison Population: 2021 document. This showed that as of 30 June 2021, 1,365 prisoners self-designated as Irish Traveller or Gypsy. Of these, 1,337 were male and 28 were female.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2021-12-30 HL4938 Copy of
Chapter_6_Offender_management_Tables 6.01.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-14/HL4938>

Prisoners: Restraint Techniques

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many instances of the use of force by prison officers on prisoners were recorded in each of the last 10 years; and (1) how many, and (2) what proportion, of those instances were recorded by prisoner ethnicity. [HL5000]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The requested data on use of force incidents is available for the year ending March 2012 to March 2021. This is detailed in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

Ethnicity data is available from March 2019 to March 2021, and included, however data for March 2012 to March 2018 could only be obtained at disproportionate cost and is not included.

There was a steady increase in the number of force incidents between 2011 and 2019, which was in part attributable to an increase in violent incidents in prisons, improved recording processes and inclusion of guiding holds as recordable Use of Force incidents.

Every use of physical force is reviewed and prison officers receive appropriate training to ensure that it is only used when necessary, reasonable and proportionate, and as a last resort.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Spreadsheet [2021-12-31 HL5000 UoF For Release.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-15/HL5000>

Prisons: Smuggling

Asked by Lord Young of Cookham

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful prosecutions there have been in the last 12 months for smuggling illegal substances into prisons in England. [HL4816]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the number of successful prosecutions for the smuggling of illegal substances into prisons. These offences are dealt with under section 40 of the Prison Act 1952 which deals with someone who brings, throws or otherwise conveys a List A article into or out of a prison. List A includes controlled drugs, but it also includes other articles including offensive weapons, explosives and firearms or ammunition. The offence code used by HM Courts and Tribunals Service is not specific enough to establish the number of offences that are related only to conveying illegal substances.

The most up to date 12 month data held for List A conveyance successful prosecutions is for 12 months up to December 2020 and there were 345 successful prosecutions in this timeframe.

Prostate Cancer: Tomography

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scans have been carried out to investigate cases of suspected prostate cancer in England in each year since 2016. [HL4025]

Lord Kamall: The information is not held in the format requested. The following table shows data on the number of multi-parametric magnetic resonance imaging scans of the prostate in 2016 to 2020. However, this data includes all such scans and not specifically for suspected cancer.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
355	2,035	5,215	7,395	10,780

Pupils: Refugees

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce (1) school attainment gaps, and (2) exclusion rates, in refugee and asylum-seeking pupils. [HL4916]

Baroness Barran: The government is committed to its mission to provide a world-class education for all

children, irrespective of their backgrounds. The pupil premium provides schools with additional money to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils, with £2.5 billion being distributed in the current financial year. The government has also announced an additional £1 billion for a recovery premium over the next two academic years (2022/23 and 2023/24), which will help schools deliver evidence-based approaches to support the most disadvantaged pupils.

There is no right number of suspensions or permanent exclusions. The department supports headteachers in using suspension and permanent exclusions as a sanction where it is warranted. We are clear that permanent exclusion should only be used as a last resort, and this should not mean exclusion from education.

Radiology

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many fully registered (1) radiographers, and (2) medical physicists, were working in the NHS in each year from 2016 to 2021; and what steps are they taking to increase the number of such professionals over the next five years. [HL4980]

Lord Kamall: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care or in general practice surgeries, local authorities or other providers. The following table shows the number of full time equivalent (FTE) professionally qualified HCHS radiographers and medical physicists working in National Health Service trusts as at September each year and the latest available data in August 2021.

Radiographers Medical Physicists

September		
2016	16,307	2,819
September		
2017	16,884	2,809
September		
2018	17,398	2,928
September		
2019	17,965	2,975
September		
2020	18,555	3,153
August		
2021	18,573	3,212

Diagnostic radiography and therapeutic radiography are two of the seven priority professions identified in Health Education England's (HEE) Cancer Workforce Plan. HEE has trained more than 560 radiographers in image interpretation and reporting and is now targeting an additional 150 for 2021/22. Since September 2020 all eligible radiography students can access a new, non-

repayable training grant of at least £5,000 per academic year plus a specialist subject payment of £1,000 per academic year.

HEE's National School of Healthcare Science commissions the Scientist Training Programme (STP) and the Higher Specialist Scientific Training (HSST) programmes for clinical scientists and consultant clinical scientists who will work in the domain of medical physics. Since 2016, 596 medical physicists have been trained via the STP and HSST programmes.

Radiotherapy: Medical Equipment

Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to replace aging radiotherapy treatment machines to enable cancer patients to benefit from technological advances in equipment; and what is their timetable for any such plans. [HL4979]

Lord Kamall: As part of the 2020 Spending Review, £32 million was made available to support the replacement of 17 linear accelerators (LINACs) over 10 years old, which will be delivered by 31 March 2022. This is in addition to £160 million invested from 2016 to 2018 which enabled the replacement or upgrade of over 80 LINACs.

As set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, changes will be made to the current radiotherapy payment system to incentivise the adoption of evidence-based best practice care and enable the appropriate replacement of equipment.

Railways: Penzance

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the importance of retaining the sleeper train between Penzance and London to the economy of the South West. [HL4984]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport last sought the public's views on the Great Western franchise in the consultation starting in November 2017. The response, published in August 2018, did not identify specific issues or concerns about the London-Penzance sleeper service.

Refugees: Afghanistan

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the implications for Afghan refugees who have been housed in 'bridging' hotels and have voluntarily moved to temporary accommodation as regards their (1) immigration status, and (2) long-term support. [HL4721]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Whether residing in bridging hotels or alternative temporary accommodation,

Afghans who were evacuated to the UK will retain the same temporary grant of leave issued to them upon arrival in the UK and, upon fulfilment of caseworking criteria, will receive indefinite leave to remain.

Afghans who were evacuated to the UK during, and post, Operation Pitting will receive integration support appropriate to their individual circumstances.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the number of individuals and families eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. [HL4730]

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been processed by the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to date; how many spaces are available for new referrals in 2022; and which organisations can make referrals to the scheme. [HL4731]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are working across government and with partners such as UNHCR to design and open the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon.

The first to be resettled through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk.

Information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at gov.uk.

All figures for operational UK resettlement schemes are published quarterly on gov.uk.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to update (1) Parliament, and (2) the public, on the implementation of (a) the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, and (b) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, including the (i) number of applicants identified or referred, and (ii) number of visas issued. [HL4732]

Lord Greenhalgh: We intend to publish an update on the progress of Operation Warm Welcome in due course.

Statistical updates will be published in the Immigration statistics quarterly release from 2022, which can be found on gov.uk.

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made with the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and when the scheme will open. [HL4903]

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme places have been allocated to those who have already evacuated to EU member states. [HL4904]

Asked by Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government which (1) international organisations, and (2) NGOs, they are working with as part of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. [HL4905]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are working across government and with partners such as UNHCR to design the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon.

The first to be resettled through the ACRS will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk.

The ACRS will be focused on people affected by events in Afghanistan, who are located in Afghanistan or in the region.

Eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK as set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish contact points for the Afghan Resettlement Scheme in neighbouring countries. [HL5044]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are working across Government and with partners such as UNHCR to design the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), amidst a complex and changing picture. We are committed to working in step with the international community to get this right, and we will set out more details soon.

Eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK as set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September.

Refugees: Resettlement

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Transnational Resettlement Project UK and Ireland. [HL5058]

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government why Northern Ireland was not considered for the resettlement of refugees as part of the Transnational Resettlement Project UK and Ireland. [HL5060]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Trans-national Resettlement Project UK (TRUKI) was funded by the European Commission and closed in 2010. A report commissioned by UK Border Agency (UKBA) providing an evaluation of the scheme can be found on the Sheffield Hallam University website under 'publications'. The TRUKI does not form part of current policy development.

Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal routes.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the support providers for the Gateway Protection Programme. [HL5059]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Gateway Protection Programme ran between 2004 and 2020, supporting UNHCR's global effort to provide durable solutions to the plight of refugees. Since the first arrivals in March 2004, the UK resettled nearly 10,000 refugees under the programme; generally those in protracted situations.

Refugees who arrived under the programme were provided with a twelve-month package of housing and integration support, delivered by support providers, including Horton Housing Association, Sheffield City Council (in partnership with Hull City Council) and the North West Gateway Resettlement Partnership.

All costs of the refugees (including health, education and social benefits) for the first 12 months after their arrival were funded. In addition, all refugees in the UK are immediately granted access to mainstream benefits and services to enable their integration.

Regional Planning and Development

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to set up a body to monitor the impact of government policy on regional inequalities. [HL4747]

Lord Greenhalgh: Levelling up is about addressing inequalities between and within regions. The forthcoming Levelling Up White Paper will build on existing action we are already taking to address regional inequalities and set out a new policy regime to drive change for years to come.

Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to uphold religious freedom in other countries; and what representations they are making to the governments of countries with restrictive blasphemy or apostasy laws which restrict that freedom. [HL4894]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to defending freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) for all, and promoting respect between different religious and

non-religious communities. Promoting the right to FoRB is one of the UK's longstanding human rights priorities. Bilaterally, Ministers and officials regularly raise specific cases of concern, and do not shy away from challenging publicly or in private those we believe are not meeting their obligations.

Multilaterally, we work with the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, G7 and other fora to promote FoRB. In May this year, we secured the inclusion of language on FoRB in the G7 communique for the first time, ensuring FoRB remains firmly on the international agenda.

The Government is deeply concerned by the use of blasphemy laws as they generally limit freedom of expression and are only compatible with international human rights law in narrow circumstances. The Government regularly applies diplomatic pressure on countries that misuse blasphemy laws.

Asked by Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the projected budget for the global summit to promote freedom of religion or belief in London on 5–6 July 2022; and how many staff are expected to work on it. [HL5046]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In July 2022, the UK will host an international Ministerial conference to promote freedom of religion or belief for all. The conference will demonstrate the UK's international leadership on supporting partner countries towards freedom and openness, underpinning the Network of Liberty the UK is committed to building around the world.

A conference budget will be finalised next year in line with all future programme budgets under the FCDO's business planning process for 2022 onwards. A conference team is being built and will be further boosted by additional surge staff in the summer.

Repossession Orders: Fraud

Asked by Lord Sikka

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the National Crime Agency and the Financial Conduct Authority received the first complaints alleging that banks had forged customer signatures to repossess homes, businesses and other property. [HL4745]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government expects all companies to obey the law and relevant regulations. Anyone with evidence of such forgery taking place should report it to their bank in the first instance. If their concerns remain, or they do not have a direct relationship with the lender, they should report it to the relevant authorities.

Although the Treasury sets the legal framework for the regulation of financial services it does not have investigative or prosecuting powers of its own and is not able to intervene in individual cases. The Financial

Conduct Authority (FCA) requires all authorised firms to have systems and controls in place to mitigate the risk that they be used to commit financial crime. Whilst the police have primary responsibility for investigating fraud the FCA also has powers to take a variety of enforcement action against firms that carry out fraudulent activity.

The chair of the Treasury Select Committee wrote to NCA Director General Lynne Owens on the issue of bank signature forgery in July 2019. The matter was assigned to the National Economic Crime Centre for consideration in September 2019.

Roads Policing Review

Asked by Lord Bradshaw

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to respond to the responses to the call for evidence for the Roads Policing Review, published on 13 July 2020. [HL4941]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The call for evidence saw 149 responses submitted, many of which were incredibly detailed. We will publish once we have given the responses our full consideration.

Roads: Accidents

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what obligation, if any, there is upon emergency services to alert a local authority where the condition of a road could be considered a causal factor in an incident they are called to attend. [HL4842]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no requirements to share information but it is the Government's expectation is that information should be shared – as appropriate - between emergency services and others in the public sector should an issue be identified that may cause a risk to the public.

Russia: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Goldie on 29 November (HL Deb, col 1130), what are their reasons for believing that a thermonuclear war with Russia would be an "unwelcome outcome". [HL5065]

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Goldie on 29 November (HL Deb, col 1128), what are their reasons for believing that an accidental war with Russia "would obviously be a very negative and unwelcome outcome". [HL5066]

Baroness Goldie: It is difficult to envisage any scenario in which war, whether accidental, thermonuclear or otherwise, and irrespective of which other parties may be involved, would be a welcome outcome. Her Majesty's Government is committed to resolving issues peacefully and diplomatically wherever possible.

Safe to Be Me Conference

Asked by Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the projected budget for the Safe To Be Me: a Global Equality Conference to be held in London on 27–28 June 2022; and how many staff are expected to work on it. [HL5047]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government looks forward to hosting *Safe to Be Me: A Global Equality Conference* which will bring together government representatives, businesses, civil society and international parliamentarians on 29 June - 1 July 2022 to address important issues around the safety of LGBT+ people at home and abroad. The Conference will explore four key themes: making progress towards legislative reform that advances equality and legal protections for LGBT+ people globally, including decriminalisation; tackling violence and discrimination; improving access to public services; and working with businesses to strengthen the economic case for LGBT+ inclusion. This will be the UK's first global LGBT+ Conference, and we will work closely with Lord Herbert of South Downs as Chair of the Conference, and in his role as Prime Minister's Special Envoy on LGBT+ rights to ensure this event is ambitious.

The overall budget allocated to the delivery of the Conference is still being finalised. As of December 2021, there are 8.25 FTE staff within the international LGBT+ team in the Cabinet Office who are working on the Conference with oversight from a Deputy Director. Additionally, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office currently has 8.25 FTE staff within the international LGBT+ rights team whose work includes the Conference, as well as substantial oversight from the relevant Director General. We expect resourcing to increase in the run up to the Conference.

Schengen Agreement

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss with the relevant authorities the banning of British citizens who have worked in North-East Syria from entering the Schengen Zone by means of notices under the Schengen Information System. [HL5045]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Entry to the Schengen Zone is a matter for the immigration authorities of relevant EU Member States. The UK continues to work with international partners on a range of issues resulting from the difficult situation in North East Syria.

Schools Commissioner

Asked by *Lord Watson of Invergowrie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the proportion of their time that each of the eight Regional Schools Commissioners spend supporting maintained schools. [HL4852]

Baroness Barran: Regional Schools Commissioners (RSC) and their teams spend around 10-15% of their time directly supporting maintained schools through brokering school improvement support and facilitating the transfer of a maintained school into a multi academy trust, for example.

RSCs and their teams also work closely with local authorities on their wider support for maintained schools, for example through advice on COVID-19 guidance and ensuring there are sufficient school places.

Schools: Swimming

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of schools in England do not offer swimming lessons to their pupils. [HL4807]

Asked by *Lord Storey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of schools that charge for swimming lessons which are part of the curriculum. [HL4808]

Baroness Barran: The department does not collect data from schools on swimming lesson provision to pupils. All schools in receipt of the primary PE and sport premium are required to publish information on the percentage of their pupils in year 6 who met each of the three swimming and water safety national curriculum expectations.

The department has published guidance to schools and local authorities on charging for school activities. The guidance is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charging-for-school-activities>. The guidance makes clear that schools cannot charge for education provided in school hours or education provided outside of school hours where it is part of the national curriculum. The department has not made an assessment of schools that charge for swimming lessons.

Schools receive general funding for all curriculum provision including PE (and by extension swimming and water safety lessons). This funding is not ringfenced or split by subject and schools have the flexibility to allocate their funding to deliver a diverse curriculum which best suits the needs of all the students.

Schools: Ventilation

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure school classrooms are properly

ventilated; and what plans they have, if any, to introduce a requirement to keep CO2 in classrooms below 800 parts per million. [HL4917]

Baroness Barran: The department has provided CO2 monitors to state-funded nurseries, schools and further education colleges, backed by £25 million in government funding. Over 99% of eligible maintained schools, further education colleges, and the majority of nurseries have now received a CO2 monitor with over 300,000 now delivered. Final deliveries will be made before the end of term. Feedback suggests that the monitors are acting as a helpful tool to manage ventilation, sitting alongside the other protective measures in place to manage transmission, such as regular testing, vaccinations and increased hygiene.

While CO2 measurements are a useful proxy for ventilation, they do not give direct information about infection risk. For these reasons, the values given in guidance should not be seen as absolute safe versus unsafe thresholds, but as a broad guide to the quality of ventilation in a space. This approach is recommended by both the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) and by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in their guidance. As stated in our guidance, it is the responsibility of schools, colleges and nurseries to decide on the use of poorly ventilated rooms in accordance with their own risk assessment procedures and obligations under health and safety law. 1,500 parts per million (ppm) is well below the workplace exposure limit set by HSE, set at 5,000ppm (averaged over the course of 8 hours).

If used properly, air cleaning units can help reduce airborne contaminants in a poorly ventilated space while remedial work is undertaken to permanently improve ventilation. It is important to note that air cleaning units cannot improve ventilation, and they should never be used as a reason to reduce ventilation or not to remediate poor ventilation in a space.

The department is providing additional, exceptional funding for air cleaning units for poorly ventilated spaces in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) providers, including SEND units in mainstream schools, where quick fixes to improve ventilation are not possible. These institutions are being prioritised given the higher-than-average number of vulnerable pupils in attendance. The purchase of 1,000 air cleaning units reflects our assessment of need in the sector based on recent feedback from SEND and AP providers.

Institutions which are not eligible for a department funded unit have access to an online 'marketplace', which provides a route to purchasing air cleaning units of a suitable specification and competitive price. We expect that in most classrooms existing ventilation will be sufficient.

Maintaining adequate ventilation ultimately remains the responsibility of individual schools, colleges and nurseries. It is for institutions to decide on the use of

affected rooms in accordance with their risk assessment procedures and obligations under health and safety law.

The case for additional support for institutions to maintain good ventilation will be kept under review as the programme continues and schools, colleges and nurseries use the monitors to further assess their ventilation needs.

Secondary Education: Teachers

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the number of secondary school teachers in England. [HL4748]

Baroness Barran: The number of teachers remains high, with over 461,000 (FTE) working in schools across the country, 20,000 more than in 2010. The department aims to continue to attract and then retain the highly skilled teachers that every child needs. We are taking action to improve teacher recruitment and retention by transforming the training and support we provide to not only attract more people into teaching, but to help teachers stay and thrive in the profession.

The department is creating an entitlement to at least three years of structured training, support and professional development for all new teachers to bring teaching in line with other prestigious professions such as law, accountancy and medicine. Underpinning this is the new Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Core Content Framework and the Early Career Framework (ECF). Together, these ensure that new teachers will benefit from at least three years of evidence-based training, across ITT and into their induction.

To support recruitment and retention of specialist secondary teachers in subjects that are harder to recruit, we have put in place a range of measures, including bursaries worth £24,000 tax-free and prestigious scholarships worth £26,000 tax-free. This will encourage talented trainees into key subjects, such as chemistry, computing, mathematics and physics. Additionally, we have announced a levelling up premium worth up to £3,000 tax-free for teachers in these subjects in years 1 to 5 of their careers.

Furthermore, the department offers bespoke programmes to attract people who may not otherwise have considered teaching. These include the High Potential Initial Teacher Training and Leadership Development Programme and a dedicated programme to attract, support and retain those with career and industry experience into teaching.

The department recognises the importance of increasing the consideration of teaching as a career of choice amongst undergraduates, and therefore we continue to support schools to deliver our teaching internship programme in mathematics, physics and computing. Our expert teacher training advisers offer bespoke, personalised support for candidates across all subjects who are looking to apply for ITT.

We also remain committed to increasing teacher starting salaries to £30,000 to make teaching an attractive graduate option. We are continuing our efforts to support teacher wellbeing, including by launching the education Staff Wellbeing Charter, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-staff-wellbeing-charter>, and by driving down unnecessary burdens and reducing teacher workload through the use of our Workload Reduction Toolkit, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-workload-reduction-toolkit>.

Sentencing

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the minimum period served in custody on average, in each of the last five years, for individuals sentenced to spend a minimum of 10 years in custody as part of (1) an extended determinate sentence, (2) an extended sentence of detention, and (3) a sentence for offenders of particular concern. [HL4936]

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the minimum period to be served in custody on average, in each of the last five years, by individuals sentenced to spend a minimum of 10 years in custody as part of (1) a mandatory life sentence, (2) an automatic life sentence, and (3) a discretionary life sentence. [HL4937]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The Ministry of Justice holds data on the average period served in custody for offenders serving the following sentences - 'Extended Sentence of Detention', 'Extended Determinate Sentence' or 'Sentence for Offenders of Particular Concern' - covering the period requested, and the data can be viewed in table 1 below:

Table 1: Average (mean) time served in custody (days) for those from an 'Extended Sentence of Detention', 'Extended Determinate Sentence' or 'Sentence for Offenders of Particular Concern' with a minimum judicially imposed sentence of 10 years, 2016-2020; England & Wales:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Extended Sentence of Detention	2,510	2,499	2,779	3,106	3,436
Extended Determinate Sentence	1,484	2,281	2,296	2,927	3,170
Sentence for Offenders of Particular Concern	-	-	-	3,840	1,406

Notes:

1. No prisoners serving a Sentence for Offenders of Particular Concern (of 10 years or more) were released in 2016, 2017 or 2018.

2. The figures in this table has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The Ministry of Justice also holds data on the average period to be served in custody for life sentences, covering the period requested, and this can be viewed in table 2 below:

Table 2: Average (mean) Minimum Tariff for Life sentences imposed with a minimum tariff of 10 years in 2016-2020:

<i>Life Sentence Type</i>	<i>Average Minimum Tariff (years)</i>
Automatic	17
Discretionary	15
Mandatory (MLP)	21

Notes:

1. Minimum tariff refers to time from date of sentence to tariff expiry date

2. Figures exclude whole-life cases

3. The figures in these tables have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing

Sewage: Waste Disposal

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, how they will evaluate the requirements on water companies in the Environment Act 2021 to make progressive reductions in sewage dumping. [HL4836]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Progressive reduction in harm means that we expect Water Companies in England to continue to take the steps necessary to reduce the harm caused by Storm Overflows, even after the next price review period. This duty will complement the 'significant' reduction required by the draft Strategic Policy Statement (SPS). We have been clear that we want to see meaningful action in this place, and will not hesitate to take further action if necessary.

The Environment Act transparency measures mean the public, stakeholders' regulators and Government will be able to proactively measure the performance of water companies in achieving this duty.

More information on ambition and timescales will be provided during the upcoming price review period - the Government, Ofwat and the Environment Agency all have roles to play in clarifying this detail. We expect to issue guidance to water companies early in 2022.

The Environment Act also commits Government to produce a Discharge Reduction Plan by September 2022. We have been clear that this Plan is the right place to set our guiding principles to reduce harm from storm overflows - including our level of ambition and this will be consulted on in Spring 2022.

Sex Establishments: Licensing

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce national minimum conditions for any unlicensed sexual entertainment provided in accordance with exemption available under paragraph 2A (3) (b) of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. [HL4799]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Local authorities have powers to control the number and location of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area. These powers are not mandatory and only apply where they are adopted by Local Authorities.

Where adopted, these provisions allow local authorities to refuse an application on potentially wider grounds than is permitted under the Licensing Act 2003 and give local people a greater say over the regulation of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area.

Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Act, Local Authorities can consider whether granting a licence for a lap dancing club would be appropriate, having regard to the character of the area and the use to which other premises in the vicinity are put. For example, a Local Authority may decide that it would be inappropriate to grant a licence for a lap dancing club in a residential area or next door to a school. This arrangement allows Local Authorities to take the most appropriate approach for their local area, ensuring that local people are able to contribute to the development of their community.

Protecting those involved in prostitution and sex work from harm is also a strand of our wider work to eradicate violence against women and girls (VAWG). In 2019 the police updated the National Policing Sex Work and Prostitution Guidance – this makes clear that the safety of people engaged in sex work must be paramount to the police service. Since 2016, the Government has provided over £2 million to specialist organisations supporting those involved in sex work and prostitution.

Sick Pay: Living Wage and Minimum Wage

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to raise the rate of statutory sick pay to equate to either the (1) national minimum, or (2) living, wage. [HL4977]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government currently has no plans to increase the rate of Statutory Sick Pay

(SSP). SSP provides a minimum level of income for employees when they are sick or incapable of work.

SSP is just one part of our welfare safety net and our wider Government offer to support people in times of need. Where an individual's income is reduced while off work sick and they require further financial support, they may be able to claim Universal Credit and new style Employment and Support Allowance, depending on their personal circumstances.

As part of the Government's response to coronavirus, we have extended SSP to those who are sick or self-isolating due to coronavirus; for example, where they or a member of their household has tested positive. SSP is also payable from the first day of absence, rather than the fourth, where an employee is sick or self-isolating due to coronavirus. Some employers may also decide to pay more, and for longer, through Occupational Sick Pay.

Sky Lanterns: Rural Areas

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle the risk of (1) fire, and (2) other serious issues, caused by sky lanterns being released in rural areas. [HL4801]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Local authorities have powers to restrict or ban the use of sky lanterns on council or public land. Councils in England, Scotland and Wales can choose to apply such a ban where a local need exists.

Slavery: Xinjiang

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce kite marking to products, indicating their origins, when (1) manufactured by slave labour in Xinjiang, or (2) believed to have been produced as part of a supply chain originating in Xinjiang, and exported to the UK. [HL4784]

Lord Callanan: Since leaving the EU, we have introduced the new UKCA marking to indicate that products comply with UK product regulations and are fit to be placed on the market in Great Britain. It is mandatory for most products currently covered by the 'CE marking' from 1 January 2023. The kitemarking is different to this and is owned and operated by the British Standards Institution.

On 12 January 2021, the UK Government announced a series of robust measures in respect of UK supply chains to help ensure that no British organisations – government or private sector, deliberately or inadvertently – are profiting from or contributing to human rights violations against the Uyghurs or other minorities in Xinjiang. The measures announced include a review of export controls as they apply to Xinjiang, the introduction of financial penalties for organisations that fail to comply with their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act, increasing

support for UK government bodies to exclude suppliers complicit in violations, and new, robust guidance to UK businesses on the specific risks faced by companies with links to the region. We will keep our policy response under close review.

Social Media: Age

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage social media companies to reveal how many underage users are on their platforms. [HL4976]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: In May 2021 HM Government published the draft Online Safety Bill. The strongest protections in this legislation are for children. Companies in scope whose sites are likely to be accessed by children will have to ensure that only users who are old enough are able to access services which have age restrictions or which risk causing them harm. The regulator, Ofcom, will be able to take enforcement action against companies that fail to comply.

The largest and most high-risk companies will also be required to publish annual transparency reports about the steps they are taking to tackle online harms. This will include steps they are taking to fulfil their safety duties and provide a higher level of protection for children. Ofcom can take robust enforcement action where companies do not provide the required information.

In addition, the Secretaries of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, and for Education, alongside the Children's Commissioner for England, hosted a roundtable with social media companies on 1 December 2021 at which the companies pledged to identify further information regarding children on their platforms and the nature of harms children may face.

Social Security Benefits and State Retirement Pensions: Christmas Bonus

Asked by Lord Sikka

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many letters they are sending this year to the recipients of the state pension and other eligible benefits informing them of the annual £10 Christmas bonus; and what is the cost of such letters. [HL4741]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The vast majority of Christmas Bonus payments are included in the regular benefit payments. DWP does not send out specific, stand-alone letters, so there is no extra cost incurred by the department.

A manual Christmas Bonus payment may be made by exception. These are cases, which for a number of reasons, have fallen out of the scans that identify eligible claimants. In this scenario, a clerical payment is made and a separate letter is sent. This stand-alone letter, is a one-off communication. Associated costs are not held, however as volumes are very low.

Social Security Benefits: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Stunell*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow jobseekers to establish their benefit status online rather than in person to reduce their risk of exposure to COVID-19. [HL5030]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Customers claiming Universal Credit, New Style JSA and ESA already do so online. Many parts of the verification process, which is essential to check an individual's eligibility to claim, is also carried out online. To protect Universal Credit from the risk of fraud, in some cases we require face to face verification activity in a COVID secure environment.

Key workers will continue to deliver essential services, including in jobcentres, across the UK. Anyone who needs to get support or other vital services from our jobcentres will be able to continue to do so in an environment that is safe and compliant with COVID regulations. Telephone appointments can be arranged for customers who prefer to receive support virtually. We ask customers who do come in-person to take a lateral flow test and follow all the safety measures to help reduce the spread of COVID.

Social Services: Catering

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the standard training given to chefs in care settings. [HL4872]

Lord Kamall: No specific assessment has been made.

Social Services: Inspections

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training is available to care inspectors in relation to diet and its impact on overall wellbeing. [HL4870]

Lord Kamall: As the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) monitors, inspects and regulates services to ensure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety. The CQC's inspectors consider Regulation 14 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, to assess whether people who use services have adequate nutrition and hydration to sustain life and good health.

The CQC can prosecute for a breach of this regulation or a breach of part of the regulation if a failure to meet the regulation results in avoidable harm to a person using the service or a person using the service is exposed to significant risk of harm.

While the CQC's inspectors are not required to undertake specific mandatory training in relation to diet and Regulation 14, the CQC refers its inspectors to both

learning resources produced by Skills for Care and internal resources on nutrition and hydration.

Social Services: Qualifications

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they recognise the need for a (1) nationally recognised, and (2) mandatory, care qualification; and what steps they have taken, if any, towards establishing this. [HL4871]

Lord Kamall: There are a number of nationally recognised qualifications available for those working in the adult social care sector. We are also investing in the social care workforce to support those working in care to access training and qualifications and increase their skills.

In addition, the Care Certificate provides nationally recognised training standards for non-registered roles. The standards equip workers with the fundamental skills they need to provide quality care and care workers complete the Care Certificate as part of their induction training. We have also committed to the creation of a delivery standard recognised across the sector. This will improve the portability of the Care Certificate, to avoid care workers repeating training when moving roles. We are exploring options to establish a requirement for all care workers to have reached this baseline standard.

South China Sea: Disputed Territories

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help Vietnam and other claimant states (1) to resolve their disputes in relation to the South China Sea, and (2) to conclude a substantive South China Sea Code of Conduct which conforms to international law. [HL4873]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In the South China Sea, our commitment is to international law, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and to freedom of navigation and overflight. We take no position on sovereignty disputes and encourage all parties to settle their disputes peacefully through the existing legal mechanisms, including UNCLOS. We oppose any action which changes the situation on the ground, raises tensions or hinders the chances of peaceful settlement of the disputes.

The UK is committed to engaging with South East Asian countries in support of shared prosperity and regional stability. We are working with allies to strengthen regional capacity on maritime law and security, including with South China Sea claimants, through a programme of dialogues, training, and conferences. In July 2021, the then Minister for Asia signed a new Maritime Security Partnership with Vietnam, which will enhance the UK's bilateral maritime capacity cooperation. The Foreign Secretary discussed the South China Sea and regional security with counterparts

during her most recent visit to SE Asia on 6-12 November.

The UK welcomes negotiations between China and ASEAN countries for an effective and substantive Code of Conduct for claimants' activities. We continue to make clear that the text should support and complement UNCLOS and reflect the legitimate interests of third countries, including the UK. This was stated most recently in the Chair's statement on 12 December following the first meeting between G7 Foreign and Development Ministers and ASEAN member States.

Students: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require universities to provide partial refunds of tuition fees to students who are affected by the disruptions caused by industrial action. [HL4774]

Baroness Barran: The quality of higher education and the learning and opportunities it offers for students are priorities for this government.

The government believes that students should be at the heart of the higher education system. Therefore, we set up the Office for Students (OfS) to regulate the higher education sector in England, protect student rights and ensure the sector is delivering real value for money.

The OfS expects providers to do all they can to avoid disruption for students. Prior to these strikes starting, the OfS wrote to universities outlining how they will uphold standards and protect student interests. They have made clear that they expect universities to abide by the conditions of registration, maintain the delivery of higher education and minimise disruption to students in the event of any industrial action. The OfS also highlighted providers' obligations under consumer protection law in relation to the impact of industrial action. The OfS published a statement about its expectations of providers during industrial action, available here: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/news-blog-and-events/press-and-media/ofs-responds-to-industrial-action/>

Higher education providers are independent, autonomous institutions responsible for their own decisions about the terms and conditions of employment and pensions. The Pensions Regulator is currently working with the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), Universities UK and a range of other stakeholders as they work to find a long-term solution to the funding challenges faced by the USS.

We expect higher education providers to consider their obligations under consumer law and students' consumer rights carefully, including during industrial action. This includes ensuring that a range of appropriate remedies and mitigations are available, which may include financial compensation, to prevent and minimise the effects of any strike action upon their students.

If students have concerns, they can complain through their provider's complaints process. If they are unhappy

with the outcome, students have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA). The OIA has published a briefing note about its approach to complaints by students affected by the industrial action, available here: <https://www.oiahe.org.uk/resources-and-publications/briefing-notes/oia-briefing-note-complaints-arising-from-strike-action/>. The OIA has also published case summaries relating to industrial action complaints they have handled, available here: <https://www.oiahe.org.uk/resources-and-publications/case-summaries/>.

On 19 April 2021, the OIA announced the introduction of new rules to streamline the Large Groups Complaints process. This should help the OIA to manage similar complaints from large groups of students from a single higher education provider, allowing complaints to be considered collectively and for individual complaints to be added to a larger group.

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 steps they will take to ensure the planning system enables the growth of housing-based care options for older people. [HL4824]

Lord Greenhalgh: This Government is committed to the provision of homes for older people, including those who require care and support. As set out in our National Planning Policy Framework, local authorities should already assess the types of specialist housing needed for older and disabled people in their areas, and this should be reflected in their planning policies.

We remain committed to working closely with a range of stakeholders to look at how we can further support the growth of a thriving older people's housing sector. This includes considering the merits of different engagement and delivery models, including proposals from the sector for a cross-Government taskforce.

Taxis: Complaints

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to review how common law police disclosure operates regarding licensed taxi drivers, and (2) to ensure that allegations against such taxi drivers are promptly reported by the police to the relevant local licensing authority. [HL4800]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Common Law Police Disclosure (CLPD) provisions are an operational matter for policing. The provisions allow forces to proactively provide (sensitive) personal data to a third party using common law powers, where appropriate. This includes – in certain circumstances – sharing information with a

licensing authority where the individual in question is a taxi or private hire vehicle licence holder.

Chief officers should determine the implementation of CLPD provisions locally, in accordance with guidance published by the College of Policing and National Police Chiefs' Council. They should also ensure close engagement with licensing authorities to allow for the exchange of information.

The Home Office and Department for Transport continue to facilitate join-up at the national level between policing and licensing bodies, in order to ensure these processes are understood and work as smoothly as possible at the local level.

Technology: Companies

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require technology companies to implement mechanisms to deal with harmful anonymous accounts. [HL5034]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Online Safety Bill requires companies to manage effectively the risk of online anonymous abuse on services in scope. Companies will need to remove and limit the spread of illegal content and prevent children from experiencing harmful abuse. Major platforms will also need to set out clearly what legal content is acceptable for adult users on their services and enforce their terms and conditions consistently and transparently. This applies whether a user is anonymous or not.

Ofcom will have enforcement powers available to use against companies which fail their duties. These powers include fines for companies of up to £18 million or 10% of qualifying annual global turnover, and business disruption measures.

The draft Bill has been subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee which reported its recommendations on 14 December. We are considering the Committee's recommendations and are committed to introducing the Bill as soon as possible after that.

Telecommunications Cables: Seas and Oceans

Asked by Lord Richards of Herstmonceux

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to protect international underwater telecommunication cables; and what would be the consequences of a failure to do so. [HL4846]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Sub-sea cables are a critical part of the UK's telecommunications infrastructure connecting the UK to the rest of the world. Working with operators, DCMS ensures their security and resilience. We support industry efforts to enhance the cable networks' resilience to loss or damage and provide

advice and guidance to mitigate the risks posed by physical and cyber threats.

Terrorism: Victims

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to standardise the definition of a victim of terrorism across the UK. [HL4790]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office recognises a victim of terrorism as anyone who has suffered harm, including physical, mental and emotional harm, as a consequence of a terrorist attack. This includes those who are injured, bereaved families, and witnesses. We recognise that many people can be affected by terrorist attacks in many ways and are committed to ensuring that all victims receive comprehensive support. To strengthen the support available the Home Secretary publicly committed to conducting an internal review of the support provided to victims of terrorism. Whilst this review will not consider changing the definition of a victim it will consider the support provided to victims of terrorism.

Support for victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland is a devolved matter and there is separate legislation for the provision of this support under The Victims and Survivors (NI) Order 2006.

Timber: Drax Power Station

Asked by Baroness Boycott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee of the House of Commons on 23 November (Q324), when they will issue a response on the source of pellets used by Drax; and whether they will publish the evidence used in their analysis. [HL4933]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: I refer the noble Lady to my response to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, which was published on 15 December and is available at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/41426/default/>. A copy is also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Letter to EFRA Committee [Lord Goldsmith letter 6 Dec 2021 to EFRA Committee.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-14/HL4933>

T-levels: Expenditure

Asked by Lord Watson of Invergowrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 13 December (HL4660), how many students are currently enrolled on

a T level; and what has been the additional cost of funding more teaching hours for T level students. [HL5073]

Baroness Barran: We have published high level summary enrolment numbers for 2020 and 2021 in the recent T Level action plan and the one published in 2020, available to view here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-action-plan>. We have also published 2020 starts in the 16-18 participation statistical data release in June 2021.

T Levels include more teaching hours than general 16-19 study programmes. Therefore, 4 larger bands have been added to the 16-19 funding bands to ensure schools, colleges and other training providers with T Level students are paid at a higher rate. The additional costs of this are as follows for the first two academic years of T Levels:

<i>Funding stream</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>2021/22</i>	<i>Totals to date</i>
Funding for additional T Level teaching hours	£1.6 million	£5.1 million	£6.7 million

The funding for additional T Level teaching hours is based on the published allocations of T Level numbers using a comparison of the standard T Level and band 5 funding rates.

Trade Agreements

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made as to whether the progress of negotiating free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements is constrained by a lack of staff and resources. [HL4969]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: The Government has an ambitious programme of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. When delivering any programme, but particularly one of such scope and ambition as our FTA programme, resource will always be a constraint.

To achieve the best outcomes for the UK, we manage the delivery of our work to ensure that we use our finite resource in the right way. This has allowed the Department to realise unparalleled success in the delivery of our FTA programme. So far, we have agreed trade deals with 70 countries plus the EU. Those deals covered £766 billion of our bilateral trade in 2020.

Trade Fairs: Finance

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to (1) extend, and (2) expand, financial support for UK companies at trade shows in other countries. [HL4978]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: Existing support for attending trade shows is available via the European Regional Development Fund supported £38m Internationalisation Fund, which provides co-investment to small and medium-sized enterprises to internationalise.

HM Government extended support on 30 November 2021, by launching the UK Tradeshow Programme. The scheme builds business capability to maximise benefits from participating at trade shows overseas. The programme offers some exhibiting businesses up to £4,000 of financial support.

The programme expands from January 2022 to include support for businesses visiting (prior to deciding whether to exhibit) selected overseas trade shows, to get them exhibitor-ready. This includes assistance of up to £500 to all successful applicants.

Trader Support Service

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the total expenditure on the Trader Support Service has been since its commencement. [HL4829]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: Since its commencement to November 2021, the total spend on Trader Support Service is £204 million.

Trader Support Service (TSS) has handled just under 1.4 million Supplementary Declarations since 1 January 2021, with approximately 44,000 traders registered to use the service.

Just over 16,800 of our traders are registered in Northern Ireland, with just over 11,500 of those traders actively using the service.

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, what is the projected annual expenditure on the Trader Support Service for each of the next three years. [HL4830]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The total estimated spend for the Trader Support Service (TSS) in the year 2022-23 is £99 million. There is currently no projected spend in the subsequent two years. We continue to work up options for the end of the TSS's initial two-year contract period to December 2022 and await the outcome of the negotiations currently underway for the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government for how long they intend the Trader Support Service to operate. [HL4832]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The current contract with the Trader Support Service (TSS) is due to end in December 2022. We continue to work up options for the end of the TSS's initial two-year contract period to December 2022 and await the outcome of the negotiations currently underway for the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Trader Support Service: Staff

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are employed (1) directly, and (2) indirectly, by the Trader Support Service. [HL4831]

Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Trader Support Service (TSS) contract was awarded to a consortium of Fujitsu, who was the majority member, McKinsey and Company, Customs Clearance Consortium, Institute for Export and International Trade, and Hinduja Global Solutions Limited. There are 759 staff employed across Fujitsu and other consortium members supporting TSS as of the week ending 17 December 2021.

Trader Support Service (TSS) has handled just under 1.4 million Supplementary Declarations since 1 January 2021, with approximately 44,000 traders registered to use the service.

Just over 16,800 of our traders are registered in Northern Ireland, with just over 11,500 of those traders actively using the service.

Trapping

Asked by Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the consultation on the use of snares will be launched that was announced in the Action Plan for Animal Welfare on 12 May. [HL4803]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: When used improperly, snares can cause immense suffering and we are looking at whether changes are needed to address these concerns. The call for evidence on the use of snares will be launched in due course, and this is an issue we are looking at closely as part of our continued drive to maintain the highest animal welfare standards in the world.

Travel Restrictions: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to coordinate health restrictions on travel (1) within Europe, and (2) more widely. [HL4793]

Lord Kamall: We are frequently reviewing new intelligence, including measures introduced by other countries. G7 Health Ministers met on 29 November to discuss developments related to the Omicron variant.

The UK Health Security Agency continues to monitor the situation in partnership with scientific and public health organisations across the world, including working with the countries currently on the United Kingdom's 'red list' to understand the virus and possible mitigations.

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to review the COVID-19 travel red list; and what

factors they will take into account when conducting that review. [HL4907]

Lord Kamall: Decisions on COVID-19 travel red list assignment are taken by Ministers. They are informed by evidence, including a UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) risk assessment, alongside wider public health factors. The UKHSA risk assessments cover a range of information and take place every three weeks. The last UKHSA risk assessment of countries was carried out on 13 December 2021, with the next assessment made before 3 January 2022.

Risk assessments take into account the assessment of sequencing capability of countries, available surveillance, epidemiology in country, recent genome sequencing data, evidence of in-country community transmission of COVID-19 variants, evidence of exportation of new variants to the United Kingdom or other countries and travel connectivity with the UK and other countries.

Travel: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Tyrrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 2 November (HL3083), what changes have been made to the information required from approved suppliers of COVID-19 PCR tests since 2 November. [HL4779]

Lord Kamall: From 12 November, all private providers are required to maintain the Government's minimum standards for the international arrivals services they offer. The changes ensure that the standards of service of private providers are consistent with the quality expected, from initial application to throughout the lifetime of the service, to support public health. Any organisation involved in carrying out the end-to-end testing service cannot sell tests until the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has written to the appropriate organisation to confirm that the testing service meets the standard. Additionally, there have been amendments to the daily sales reporting, which as a mandatory legal requirement for all providers of international arrivals testing, must now include details in relation to tests that were cancelled that day.

Following the recent changes to international travel, from 30 November 2021, it became a legal requirement to report S-gene target failure and particularly failure for the S-gene deletion 69-70 where the diagnostic laboratory is able to identify it. The minimum standards have been updated to reflect this.

Asked by Lord Tyrrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 12 October (HL2767), in which format the data relating to the number of COVID-19 PCR tests for travel is held; and what plans they have, if any, to publish this data. [HL4920]

Lord Kamall: Data on the number of COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests for travel was previously held for arrivals from ‘red’ and ‘amber’ list countries.

Data on testing for international arrivals from red list and non-red list countries, including confirmatory PCR tests, from 30 September 2021 is published weekly in an online only format at GOV.UK.

Asked by Lord Tyrrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the comparative costs of a PCR test for travel in (1) Germany, (2) France, (3) Italy, and (4) Spain. [HL5070]

Lord Kamall: No specific assessment has been made.

Travel: Quarantine

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average level of subsidy per person they provide to hotels to quarantine travellers entering the UK from red list countries; and what steps they take to ensure value for money. [HL4806]

Lord Kamall: From February to October 2021, the average level of subsidy per person to provide a managed quarantine service was 53%. During the period there was a decrease in number of destinations on the ‘red list’, therefore the number of hotel rooms for quarantine was reduced to reflect the lower demand from passengers and deliver better value for money.

Tree Felling

Asked by Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of tree felling to provide fuel for UK power stations (1) in the UK, and (2) overseas. [HL4804]

Lord Callanan: The Government only supports the use of biomass for energy generation where it complies with our strict sustainability criteria. The sustainability criteria require, among other things, that where biomass is sourced from forests, irrespective of its location, it needs to be sourced from forest areas which are managed in a way that is consistent with sustainable forest management practices.

Tree Planting

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask Her Majesty's Government, of the target of 5,000 hectares of trees planted, what proportion were planted in (1) 2020, and (2) 2021; and what the delivery target will be for 2022. [HL4839]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government committed to trebling woodland creation rates to 30,000

hectares per year in the UK by the end of this Parliament. The Government aims to at least treble woodland creation in England over that time period to contribute to that target and will maintain new planting at least at this level from 2025 onwards.

After centuries of deforestation, tree cover in the UK reached its low point in 1924, with only 5% of the UK forested after the First World War. Now, after a century of effort, we have brought woodland cover back up to 13% of our land. The areas of new planting (woodland creation) taken from the Forestry Commission's [Forestry Statistics](#) are shown below:

<i>Year (ending 31 March)</i>	<i>New planting in England (thousand hectares)</i>
2019-20	2.34
2020-21	2.06

Since 2020-21 there are also quarterly interim reports (provisional statistics) on new planting of woodland published in the [Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators](#). In the first half of 2021-22 there were 856 hectares of new planting of woodland in England. We expect further trees to be planted throughout this tree planting season which ends in March 2022, and our projections show we are currently on the right trajectory to meet our commitments.

In England, we are boosting the existing £640 million Nature for Climate Fund with a further £124 million of new money, ensuring total spend of more than £750 million by 2025 on peat restoration, woodland creation and management - above and beyond what was promised in the manifesto.

UK Endorsement Board

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 7 December (HL4418), for each member of the UK Endorsement Board what (1) relevant experience, or (2) training, they have had on the accounting standards in the Companies Act 2006 framework; what was the form of any such experience or training; to what level such training or experience was completed; and when such training or experience was completed. [HL4997]

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 7 December (HL4418), for each member of the UK Endorsement Board what (1) training, or (2) experience they have had on corporate finance and solvency; what was the (a) form and (b) level of such training or experience; and when such training or experience was completed. [HL4998]

Lord Callanan: All members of the UK Endorsement Board were appointed following an open, transparent and rigorous recruitment process. The Board is comprised of a

group of experts with a wealth of experience across different sectors including preparers of accounts, investors, academics and members of accounting firms. The Board has a diverse membership with a strong interest in the quality of financial reporting in the UK that will ensure that the UK's contributions to developments in international accounting standards are world leading. Ongoing training for Board members focuses on new developments in financial and corporate reporting.

UK Endorsement Board: Legal Costs

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 7 December (HL4413), what were the legal expenses to date of (1) the UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited, and (2) the UK Endorsement Board, by the name of (a) person, or (b) firm engaged; what was the cost of the advice in each case; and what were the dates of completion of tenders for the appointment of each of those engagements. [HL4999]

Lord Callanan: The UK Accounting Standards Endorsement Board Limited provides the operational facilities and resources to support the UK Endorsement Board's activities.

The UK Endorsement Board is an independent unincorporated association and has autonomy of decision-making in relation to the functions conferred upon it. Procurement of legal advice in undertaking those functions is a matter for the UK Endorsement Board and BEIS has no role in this process.

UK Internal Trade: Northern Ireland

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government which parts of the Subsidy Control Bill are not intended to apply to Northern Ireland because of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. [HL4960]

Lord Callanan: Clause 48(2)(a) provides that the subsidy control requirements contained in the Bill do not apply to subsidies given, or schemes made, in accordance with Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Article 10 of the Northern Ireland Protocol provides that EU State aid rules continue to apply to aid which affects trade in goods and electricity between NI and the EU.

All parts of the Subsidy Control Bill apply to subsidies for services in Northern Ireland.

The Government is currently in intensive discussions with the EU, with the aim of delivering significant changes to the Protocol. As outlined in the Command Paper of 21 July 2021, the UK's proposal is that all types of subsidy would in the future be within scope of the domestic regime, with some enhanced arrangements for subsidies of significant scale in Northern Ireland.

UN Convention on Biological Diversity

Asked by Baroness Parminter

To ask Her Majesty's Government who are the representatives from the business and finance sector on the business advisory group set up under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and what is the group's remit. [HL4728]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In pursuit of high ambition outcomes for CBD COP15, Defra engages with a range of UK stakeholders including representatives from academia, the private sector, NGOs, and other interested parties, to gain valuable input from a wide range of sources.

As part of this engagement, a business advisory group has met several times to consider the draft global biodiversity framework, its implementation across the private sector, and the role of business in mainstreaming biodiversity.

Representatives of the business advisory group are:

- The Biodiversity Consultancy
- BP (independently but also on behalf of the UK Business and Biodiversity Forum, UKBBF)
- Business for Nature coalition
- Danone (independently but also on behalf of the One Planet Business for Biodiversity coalition, OP2B)
- The Environment Bank
- Firmenich (independently but also on behalf of the One Planet Business for Biodiversity coalition, OP2B)
- FNZ UK
- JP Morgan
- National Hair and Beauty Federation (NHBF)
- Scottish and Southern Electricity
- Sound and Fair
- Standard Charter
- Tengri
- Unilever
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- World Ocean Council
- WSP

Undocumented Migrants: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all irregular migrants arriving in the UK are tested for COVID-19; what proportion of such migrants have had positive COVID-19 test results; and how many migrants have had to be admitted to hospital as a result of COVID-19 within a week of arrival in the last 10-week period. [HL4651]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: All individuals arriving by small boats are tested by the Home Office for

COVID-19 using a lateral flow test immediately on arrival. If the result is positive, they are immediately isolated along with any family members.

Testing of migrants arriving in the UK by other irregular means may vary depending on who is the first responder. However, in line with recent updates to the Government's Coronavirus regulations, new arrivals to Immigration removal centres and residential short-term holding facilities are tested on or by day 2 by PCR test. Within asylum accommodation, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office conduct day 2 and day 8 testing, which is administered and managed by our service provider staff on site.

The Home Office does not routinely publish information on the proportion of migrants testing positive for COVID-19.

Unemployment: Young People

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Evening Standard and Independent's £1 million Skill Up Step Up campaign to help address youth joblessness; and what plans they have, if any, to match-fund the newspapers' campaign. [HL4718]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Campaigns that encourage employers to create more opportunities and to invest in the skills of their future workforce, can make an important contribution to helping young people thrive in the labour market. The Government welcomes the opportunity to work with partners (existing and new) who share our commitment to supporting young people to fulfil their potential for their benefit, as well as that of wider society.

The Government's Plan for Jobs offers a strong foundation of employment and skills support so young unemployed people can move in to work. Through the face to face support offered in our jobcentres and Youth Hubs, we see the potential of young Londoners every day and it's vital for business to be a partner in opening up opportunities for them. We know it changes lives, with 21,000 young people in the city having secured jobs for employers of all sizes through our Kickstart Scheme. There is huge strength in coming together as we unleash the talent of the next generation.

Universal Credit: Self-employed

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) number, and (2) percentage, of Universal Credit recipients whose payments are affected by the minimum income floor for self-employed people. [HL4822]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: In September 2021, the latest month for which there is available data, there were around 4,000 gainfully self-employed Universal Credit

(UC) recipients not in a start-up period and earning below the minimum income floor. This is 1% of all self-employed UC recipients, and 0.1% of all UC claimants.

This number will likely change significantly over the coming year as we gradually reintroduce our pre-pandemic processes for the self-employed, many of whom claimed while the minimum income floor was suspended.

Uzbekistan: Foreign Relations

Asked by Viscount Waverley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to strengthen the relationship with the government of Uzbekistan given the unfolding humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. [HL5075]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK government recognises the importance of Uzbekistan's role as a partner in the international response to the crisis in Afghanistan, including in efforts to alleviate the unfolding humanitarian situation. On 16 December 2021, the Minister for Europe and Americas, Wendy Morton MP, and I [Lord Ahmad] met Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Gayrat Fazilov to discuss the UK-Uzbekistan bilateral relationship, including our cooperation on issues relating to Afghanistan. The Minister for the Armed Forces, James Heapey MP, and I [Lord Ahmad] also made visits to Uzbekistan in September. The UK recognises the role that Uzbekistan can play in supplying humanitarian aid to Afghanistan through their infrastructure hub in Termez and is encouraging UN agencies to use all available routes for humanitarian assistance. The UK has committed £2 million in aid to the World Food Programme and UNHCR for preparations in the region in the event of assistance being required in Central Asia.

Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the projected sale of the Vaccine Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Harwell; and when they will publish any such assessment. [HL4704]

Lord Callanan: The Vaccine Manufacturing Innovation Centre (VMIC) UK is a private company, limited by guarantee, and as such the UK Government does not exercise any ownership rights. Grant funding has been provided initially to support vaccine manufacturing innovation in the UK and latterly in response to Covid-19.

We are working closely with VMIC and other third parties to ensure the UK retains a strong domestic vaccine manufacturing capability to contribute to the UK's resilience against COVID-19 and other future health emergencies. At present, these discussions are commercially sensitive.

Vagrancy Act 1824

Asked by Lord Goodlad

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, they have to repeal the Vagrancy Act 1824. [HL4710]

Lord Greenhalgh: This Government is clear that no one should be criminalised simply for having nowhere to live and that is why it's time to review the Vagrancy Act.

Work is underway to look at this complex issue and it is important we carefully look at all options.

The Government will update on our findings in due course.

Violence and Harassment Convention

Asked by Baroness Primarolo

To ask Her Majesty's Government what objections they have received, if any, to their Command Paper declaring their intention to ratify the International Labour Organisation Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No.190). [HL4910]

Asked by Baroness Primarolo

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the ratification of International Labour Organisation Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No.190). [HL4912]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: As of 15 December 2021, the Violence and Harassment Convention Command Paper has cleared without objection which indicates that the Government can proceed to ratification.

The Instrument of Ratification will be drawn up for signature by the Foreign Secretary and deposited at the International Labour Organization as soon as is practicable in the new year. The Convention would enter into force for the UK one year after the date of the UK's ratification.

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people from Hong Kong have (1) applied to relocate to the UK under the British Nationals (Overseas) (BNO) visa scheme since January, and (2) arrived in the UK under the BNO visa scheme since January; and what steps they have taken to help such people settle within local communities. [HL5019]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: (1) The Home Office publishes data on visas and the British National Overseas (BN(O)) route in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' which can be found on Gov.uk The data relates to the first three quarters of 2021, January to September, and are derived from management information. These statistics include data on main applicants and dependants and some data are rounded to the nearest hundred. Data for Q4 2021 will be published on 24 February 2022. (2)

At present it is not possible from the data to say how many of those issued with a visa have arrived in the UK. (3) In April 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) launched a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders with a package worth £43.1 million for this financial year.

Weasels: Conservation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to give weasels legal protection and to declare them 'vulnerable to extinction', further to their falling numbers. [HL4876]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The 2018 IUCN-compliant Red list assessment for Britain's terrestrial mammals classified weasels as Least Concern in Great Britain with an estimated population of 308,000; this assessment also noted that there is a deficiency of data on this species. The Government is aware of recent research suggesting the weasel may have undergone significant recent declines. The IUCN Red list assessments are an internationally recognised approach using agreed guidelines, and is an objective evidence-led process. This new evidence will be taken into account and considered when the Red list is next updated.

As set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Government is committed to taking action to recover our threatened native species. Our landmark Environment Act requires a new legally binding target to be set to halt the decline of species abundance by 2030, which will help to drive actions to deliver nature recovery including benefitting species such as weasels. The Act also established Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, conservation covenants and a strengthened biodiversity duty on public authorities which will work together to direct investment and action across the country - including to create or restore habitats that enable wildlife such as weasels to recover and thrive as part of a Nature Recovery Network.

Beyond the Act, we are investing more funding than ever in nature, including over £750 million to protect, restore, and expand habitats like woodlands and peat bogs through the Nature for Climate Fund, and our £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund. And we are introducing three new schemes that reward farmers and land managers for the delivery of environmental benefits, including creating and preserving habitat, and making landscape-scale environmental changes, which will be crucial to supporting species recovery.

West Africa: Health Services

Asked by Lord Boateng

To ask Her Majesty's Government what Official Development Assistance has been given to (1) Nigeria, and (2) Ghana, to support the training and employment of clinical staff in the healthcare systems of each of

these countries; and what plans they have to provide further assistance to these countries. [HL4602]

Lord Kamall: In 2021/22, the Government has allocated £3.6 million to health workforce development programmes in Ghana. This includes programmes focussed on improving workforce planning and governance, training new healthcare workers in refugee camps and developing training curricula. Through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, we have previously invested in health programmes in Nigeria and Ghana, such as the WomenForHealth Programme in Nigeria and mental health nurse training in Ghana. No decisions on specific programmes and geographical areas in the future have yet been made.

Workplace Pensions

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage employers to calculate their gender pension contributions gap in order to compare this to their gender pay gap data. [HL4772]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: In 2017, the government introduced regulations requiring large employers to publish the differences in average salaries and bonuses for men and women. The regulations have helped to motivate employers; placing the gender pay gap at the top of the agenda and prompting conversations within businesses about workplace equality.

Employers are now focussed on understanding and tackling the causes of the gaps in their organisations. Reporting has been a vital part of getting everyone to take the first step.

Alongside this, the government is continuing to work closely with employers, their representative bodies and regulators to build understanding on this issue.

Workplace Pensions: Females

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish guidance directed at women on how to prepare for retirement in order to help reduce the pension gender pay gap. [HL4746]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Automatic Enrolment has significantly increased the number of women saving towards a workplace pension. In 2012, 40 per cent of eligible women were participating in a workplace pension compared to 86 per cent in 2020.

MoneyHelper, delivered by the Money and Pension Service (MaPS), provides guidance to people of all ages on all pension issues. This already covers many aspects that impact women's pensions, including maternity leave, returning to work part-time and divorce. MoneyHelper has information and tools that allow people to understand what their retirement income may be.

MaPS are looking at introducing improved tools that help people model the impact of their working patterns on their pensions and life event guidance. The aim is to help people engage with the decisions they should be considering at different life moments.

Xinjiang: Genocide

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the finding of the Uyghur Tribunal that a genocide is underway against Uyghurs in Xinjiang; and what steps they intend to take in response. [HL4858]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have followed the Uyghur Tribunal's work closely, and will study its conclusions carefully. We welcome the Tribunal's contribution to building international awareness and understanding of the human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang. The UK has led international efforts to hold China to account at the UN, imposed sanctions on senior Chinese government officials, and announced measures to help ensure no UK organisations are complicit in these violations through their supply chains. We will continue to work with international partners to increase the pressure on China to change its behaviour.

Xinjiang: Minority Groups

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of oppression of minority groups in the Xinjiang region in China. [HL4759]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: There are serious human rights violations occurring in Xinjiang, including the extra-judicial detention of over a million Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in "political re-education camps" since 2017, systematic restrictions on Uyghur culture and the practice of Islam, and extensive and invasive surveillance targeting minorities.

The UK Government is committed to working with our international partners to stand up for the rights of Uyghurs and other minorities in Xinjiang and to hold China to account for its serious human rights violations in the region.

Xinjiang: Uighurs

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 13 December (HL4447), when they expect their review of export controls to be completed; and what plans they have to introduce the financial penalties for those in contravention of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, as announced by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs on 12 January (HC Deb, cols 160–62). [HL4885]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 8 December the Secretary of State for International Trade announced a package of measures to update the UK's export control regime via a written ministerial statement to Parliament. This included an enhancement to the military end-use control that will allow HM Government to better address threats to national security, international peace and security, and human rights arising from the use of otherwise non-controlled items. The changes will also address a long-standing inconsistency within the UK's export control regime by adding China to the list of destinations subject to military end-use controls. Taken together, these changes will strengthen our ability to prevent exports that might be used directly or indirectly to facilitate human rights violations in all destinations subject to military end-use controls. It also completes the export control review announced to Parliament on 12 January 2021 by the then Foreign Secretary.

Financial penalties for companies that fail to meet their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act will be introduced as soon as the Parliamentary timetable allows.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 13 December (HL4447), what caused the delay in publishing the review of export controls to the Uyghur

region, which was described as "urgent" by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs on 12 January (HC Deb cols 160–62). [HL4886]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 8 December the Secretary of State for International Trade announced a package of measures to update the UK's export control regime via a written ministerial statement to Parliament. This included an enhancement to the military end-use control that will allow HM Government to better address threats to national security, international peace and security, and human rights arising from the use of otherwise non-controlled items. The changes will also address a long-standing inconsistency within the UK's export control regime by adding China to the list of destinations subject to military end-use controls. Taken together, these changes will strengthen our ability to prevent exports that might be used directly or indirectly to facilitate human rights violations in all destinations subject to military end-use controls. It also completes the export control review announced to Parliament on 12 January 2021 by the then Foreign Secretary.

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