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WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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Lord Benyon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
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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
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Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
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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

Tuesday, 11 January 2022

Civil Aviation Authority 2021: Progress Report

[HLWS515]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Transport (Robert Courts) has made the following Ministerial Statement:

During the passage of the Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Act 2021 through Parliament, Ministers confirmed that the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) annual progress report on the Airspace Modernisation Strategy would be published, and a copy placed in the Libraries of both Houses accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS).

The Airspace Modernisation Strategy sets out, through 15 initiatives, ways and means of modernising airspace, initially focussing on the period until the end of 2024. The initiatives include airspace design, operational concepts and new technology.

Six of the 15 initiatives are assessed as on track, and five initiatives require further work. The delayed timescales of delivery against the original plans set out in the Airspace Modernisation Strategy have predominantly shifted because of ongoing recovery of the aviation industry from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Four initiatives will need further legislation on Performance Based Navigation and Air Traffic Management, core elements of the Airspace Modernisation Strategy. The Department for Transport will be taking legislation forward this year to ensure continued progress to the overall Airspace Modernisation Strategy programme.

Key areas of progress have been noted within Free Route Airspace (initiative 2), remobilisation of the Future Airspace Strategy Implementation South and North airspace change programmes made possible by Government funding (initiatives 4 and 5) and initiatives 9, 10 and 11 on aligning air traffic provision with international standards, review of airspace classification and electronic conspicuity respectively.

There has also been progress with the Airspace Change Organising Group submitting Iteration 2 of their Masterplan - which will set out where airspace changes need to be coordinated and developed - for assessment by the CAA.

Chapter 2 provides an update from the co-sponsors on policy and regulatory process, with a particular emphasis on stakeholder engagement activity undertaken as part of the Airspace Modernisation Strategy refresh and the re-introduction of the Airspace Modernisation Strategy Support Fund. Strategic risks have also been flagged within this chapter, predominantly concerning future

delivery model, financing, and resourcing of the modernisation programme.

Chapter 3 provides updates related specifically to activities under the Airspace Modernisation Strategy, undertaken within areas of particular interest from the General Aviation and Communities stakeholder groups.

I will place a copy of the Airspace Modernisation – 2021 Progress Report in the libraries of both Houses

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Airspace Modernisation – 2021 Progress Report [Airspace Modernisation Progress Report - 2021.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2022-01-11/HLWS515/>

Protect Duty Consultation: Government Response

[HLWS513]

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

Between 26 February and 2 July 2021, the Government consulted on proposals for the Protect Duty, whereby certain venues and organisations would be required to consider terrorist threats and reasonable mitigations to these. Yesterday, the Government published a document outlining the responses to the public consultation.

The consultation sought the views of those organisations and venues potentially within the scope of the Protect Duty, as to how we can work together to develop appropriate security measures to improve public security. It put forward criteria and thresholds for inclusion, and considered how responsible parties for public places could consider threats, and appropriate proportionate mitigating action. It also considered what support would be required to fulfil the requirements of the Duty, and what oversight and sanctions would be appropriate were there to be non-compliance.

There was an excellent response to the consultation with 2,755 responses being received via an online survey or e-mail. There were also over 80 virtual engagement events undertaken with representatives from a wide range of organisations responsible for public places.

There was broad support in the consultation responses that those responsible for public places should take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect the public from attacks, and to prepare their staff to respond appropriately. There were a wide range of views as to who a potential legislative requirement should apply to, and what they should be required to do.

The Government is carefully considering policy proposals in light of the views raised in the consultation, in particular, how a legislative requirement could further improve public security, whilst not placing an undue burden on organisations which are smaller in size or

staffed by volunteers, such as places of worship. Legislative proposals will be taken forward when Parliamentary time allows.

A copy of the consultation response document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

School Improvement

[HLWS514]

Baroness Barran: The Department for Education will today publish a Government response to the public consultation on reforming how local authorities' school improvement functions are funded.

The Government response summarises responses and notes that Government will proceed to implementing the proposals consulted on. These are (i) that the local authority school improvement monitoring and brokering grant, forecast to be worth c.£42m in 2022-23 (based on October 2021 funding levels), will be reduced by 50%, (to c.£21m), for financial year 2022-23, prior to full removal

in financial year 2023-24; and (ii) that provision will be included in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2022 to instead allow local authorities to deduct funding for local authorities' core school improvement activities from maintained school budgets.

These changes should be viewed in the context of Government continuing to deliver year-on-year, real terms per pupil increases to school funding, as the recent spending review invests an additional £4.7bn in the core schools budget by 2024-25, including significant additional funding for high needs. Taking DSG allocations together with the £1.2 bn new Schools Supplementary Grant announced in December 2021, mainstream school budgets are due to see an average 5.8% year-on-year per pupil cash increase in 2022-23, with every local authority forecast to see at least a 4.7% increase per pupil.

I will place a copy of the Government response in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 11 January 2022

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Asked by *Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the rate of Covid-19 vaccinations; and what plans they have to promote take-up of the vaccine. [[HL3273](#)]

Lord Kamall: Over 13 million people have already received their Covid-19 booster vaccination or third dose. We continue to review the effectiveness of the programme in order to maximise the Covid-19 booster vaccination campaign.

There are more clinics in England delivering Covid-19 vaccines, including pharmacies, general practitioner practices and other community sites. There are hundreds of walk-in sites offering booster vaccines without an appointment. In addition, Covid-19 booster vaccines have been delivered or scheduled in nine out of ten care homes in England.

Initiatives to promote the programme have included bespoke social media communications and the 'Boost your immunity this winter' launched in mid-October, encouraging all those eligible to take up the booster vaccine when offered. The advertising is forecast to reach 99% of all adults throughout the nine-week period of the campaign.

Customs: Dover

Asked by *Baroness Randerson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, for the use of the remainder of the Government-controlled site adjacent to the Dover Inland Border Facility. [[HL5190](#)]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department is considering potential options for the Government owned land at the Dover Whitecliffs site which will not be required for the HMRC IBF infrastructure. No decisions have been made at this time.

Overseas Aid

Asked by *Baroness Sugg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish the Equalities Impact Assessment relating to the reduction in Official Development Assistance in March. [[HL5062](#)]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government disclosed the Equalities Assessment to the International Planned Parenthood Federation as part of their Judicial Review claim. Having considered usual practices across Government, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has no plans to publish the overarching Equalities Assessment for Official Development Assistance for its spend in financial year 2021-2022. We will set out our future ambitions on transparency in the upcoming International Development Strategy.

Pupils: Gender

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what meaning they ascribe to the word 'gender' in the context of the Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013. [[HL5123](#)]

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consistency of the guidance issued for completion of the School Census 2021/22 in relation to the recording of gender with the Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013. [[HL5124](#)]

Baroness Barran: The department's guidance for completing the school census specifies that in this context, gender should be specified as either 'M' (male) or 'F' (female) (which may be different from the individual's legal sex). This should be self-declared and recorded according to the wishes of the parent and/or pupil. The school census does not collect the 'sex' of pupils.

The department believes that this guidance is consistent, but the changing use of language in this area, and the evolving needs of the school population, have led to the department reviewing its data standards. The department intends to publish a new standard making a distinction between 'sex' and 'gender' in the coming months. School census guidance will need to be updated to conform to the new data standard.

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