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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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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, 19 January 2022

Contingent Liability Notification: Covid-19 Antivirals

[HLWS532]

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

I am making this statement for the benefit of Honourable and Right Honourable members to bring to their attention a contingent liability the Government has agreed to relating to the two contracts signed between Her Majesty's Government (HMG) and the medicine supplier Pfizer for the COVID-19 antiviral drug PF-07321332+ritonavir (co-packaged and marketed as Paxlovid).

On 20 October 2021, the Government announced the procurement of two novel oral antivirals to treat UK COVID-19 patients. One of these was PF-07321332+ritonavir, of which the Government purchased 250,000 patient courses.

On 22 December, during recess, the UK Government procured an additional 4.25 million antivirals to treat COVID-19. This included a further 2.5 million patient courses of PF-07321332+ritonavir.

Antivirals including PF-07321332+ritonavir will support the community-based treatment and recovery of those at highest risk of hospitalisation and death who test positive for the virus. We do not anticipate a reduction in effectiveness of antivirals against the Omicron variant compared to Delta.

On 31 December 2021, PF-07321332+ritonavir was granted a conditional marketing authorisation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and a temporary Regulation 174 authorisation for Northern Ireland to ensure access to supply across the UK. This was after PF-07321332+ritonavir (Paxlovid) was found to be safe and effective at reducing the risk of hospitalisation and death in people with mild to moderate COVID-19 infection who are at an increased risk of developing severe disease.

I am now updating the House on the contingent liability HMG has taken on in relation to antiviral supply via this statement and a Departmental Minute which has been laid.

Even if vaccination and revaccination against new variants is largely effective, they are not enough to protect vulnerable cohorts of patients including the immunocompromised and those who cannot have a vaccine or fail to mount a sufficient immune response. Antivirals add another layer of resilience and flexibility to the UK's fight against COVID-19. To continue obtaining the benefits of improved health outcomes such as reducing deaths, hospitalisations, severe disease, and its

complications, a programme of investment in antivirals is required.

Given the exceptional circumstances we remain in, rapid purchase of these antivirals, while they remained available, was vital. Willingness to accept a contingent liability with respect to antiviral suppliers has helped to secure access to antivirals, with the expected benefits to public health and the economy alike, much sooner than could have been the case otherwise.

Whilst we have been required to work at pace to gain access to these emerging viable antivirals in a highly competitive global market, we have, of course, continued to have due regard for the fundamentals of protecting the taxpayer and ensuring appropriate standards of public administration are followed.

Even though PF-07321332+ritonavir has been developed at pace, the process of approval for this drug has included a full assessment of data and clinical trial results by the MHRA. This is used to assess the safety, quality and efficacy of the treatment before issuing a licence.

I will update the House in a similar manner regarding the deployment of PF-07321332+ritonavir into the community and the wider rollout of molnupiravir.

Public Consultations to Improve UK Cyber Resilience

[HLWS530]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Honourable Friend, the Minister for Media, Data, and Digital Infrastructure, Julia Lopez MP:

Today, my department has launched two consultations seeking public views on our proposals to improve the UK's cyber resilience.

The UK, as one of the leading digital nations, has accelerated its adoption of digital technologies. These technologies have rapidly become integral to the functioning of our economy and form an important part of our critical national infrastructure. In order to ensure our continued prosperity, it is vital that cyber security is a fundamental part of our country's digital transformation journey.

Cyber security incidents are increasing in frequency and sophistication, with the potential to cause severe damage to critical national infrastructure and the economy. Over the course of the last year, the National Cyber Security Centre has faced an unprecedented increase in the volume of cyber security incidents to which it has had to respond. In addition, there have been a number of high-profile cyber incidents within the last year, both domestically and abroad, which have highlighted the increasing sophistication of threats to the UK's cyber resilience. The faster paced digitisation of the UK's economy means that these attacks will have an even greater impact on British businesses and consumers.

Incidents such as the SolarWinds supply chain compromise in December 2020 and the ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline in May 2020 demonstrated how such cyber attacks can impact critical services and national infrastructure. At the same time, they have also highlighted the increased need for a sustained supply of diverse and skilled individuals into the cyber workforce to make systems more resilient against cyber threats like these.

Today's consultations are aimed at addressing these challenges. They are divided into three distinct pillars, which are discussed over two separate consultations, given the nature and audience of the differing pillars.

The first consultation covers pillars one and two, and applies to the whole of the United Kingdom. Changes proposed here affect the Network and Information Systems (NIS) Regulations 2018. This is a key piece of cyber security legislation which establishes legal measures to strengthen the overall level of security (both cyber and physical resilience) of network and information systems that are critical for the provision of essential UK services, such as transport, energy, water, digital infrastructure, and health, as well as key digital services.

Proposals in pillar one seek to bring additional critical providers of digital services under the NIS Regulations. The proposals also establish a new risk-based and proportionate supervisory framework for all digital service providers in scope of NIS. Combined, these proposed measures will strengthen the oversight of providers who frequently have privileged access and provide critical support to essential UK services, and ensure that these businesses have adequate cybersecurity protections in place.

The proposals in the second pillar seek to future-proof the NIS Regulations, by allowing changes to be implemented so the UK can adapt to evolving threats and technological developments. The government proposes powers to allow important updates to the NIS framework to be made in the future, either to respond to changing threats or technology or to cover other areas as necessary, as well as provisions to secure the most critical organisations on which essential services depend. The government would also propose to make changes to the current cost recovery system and the incident reporting framework under NIS. Measures proposed in both of these pillars seek to address some of the supply chain cyber security issues which we have experienced, and which, given the nature of the digital economy, are here to stay.

The second consultation covers the third pillar. Its audience is different from the first two pillars and its proposals are limited to England only. It proposes a set of additional approaches the government can provide in quality-assuring the cyber profession. This includes exploring both legislative and non-legislative options. The government will look to the UK Cyber Security Council to be the professional authority to ensure efforts to supply the cyber workforce with diverse and high quality

individuals is done consistently and sustainably. The role of the Council will involve developing professional standards and a career pathways framework, bringing together the existing qualification and certification market under a coherent structure. The consultation seeks to gather views on embedding a legislative underpinning for the cyber profession as well as non-legislative measures including a potential role for government procurement requirements that explores the extent to which a similar demonstration of competence should be required for specific government functions.

Copies of the consultation on [proposals for legislation to improve the UK's cyber resilience and embedding standards and pathways across the cyber profession by 2025](#) can be found on the government website.

Sharing views will help improve the UK's cyber security regulations. By strengthening the oversight of critical digital suppliers, existing cyber regulation, and improving the UK's cyber security profession, we can solidify the UK's position as a democratic and responsible cyber power and protect our essential services (such as the NHS, transport services, digital services and energy supplies). This will, ultimately, defend the interests, livelihoods, and economic prosperity of our people and businesses.

Reporting Contingent Liabilities: Government Guarantee to Back Borrowing Facility for Historic Royal Palaces

[HLWS529]

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

The Departmental Minute laid today is in respect of an extension to the period whereby Government acts as a guarantor on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces (Historic Royal Palaces) for a borrowing facility of up to £4 million to meet short-term cash flow requirements.

The renewed guarantee will be available until 19 January 2027 and Historic Royal Palaces will only enter into borrowing facilities at such times and within such monetary limits as the Department shall agree.

The guarantee provides a safeguard protecting Historic Royal Palaces' business from a sudden and serious decline in economic conditions affecting Historic Royal Palaces' admissions income, if such an event should occur, until the savings from their planned rationalisation measures could come through. It would only be used in extreme circumstances. Until the expiration of the previous renewal in September 2021, the guarantee had been in place since 2002 and prior to Spring 2020 had not been called upon.

Historic Royal Palaces is a charity established by Royal Charter. By virtue of a contract entered into on 1 April

1998, it carries out the functions of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport under Section 21 of the Crown Lands Act 1851 of managing the unoccupied Royal Palaces.

A copy of the Departmental Minute will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

UK Armed Forces Families Strategy 2022-32

[HLWS531]

Baroness Goldie: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Leo Docherty) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s UK Armed Forces Families Strategy 2022-32 on making the recognition and care of Armed Forces families a national priority has today been Laid before the House.

The strategy addresses the challenges armed forces families face with mobility, deployment and separation and the implications this has for accessing good quality healthcare, education, and accommodation. It also notes the evolving nature of family life and the pressures this can place on childcare and managing the career of the partner or spouse alongside that of the Service person.

The strategy will be supported by an action plan that includes the commitments made in the government's response to Andrew Selous MP's *Living in Our Shoes* report. The strategy and action plan will be delivered in partnership with the devolved administrations, the charitable and private sectors.

The delivery of improved support is already underway. For example, the MOD is working with the Department for Education and local authorities to lessen the impact of mobility on service children's educational attainment. Informed by consultation with families, we are also working with the Department for Health and Social Care and healthcare providers across the UK to improve understanding of the health needs of armed forces families. To advocate for the skills and experiences of partners and spouses we are collaborating with the Department for Work and Pensions and charities to ensure that they are recognised and valued by employers. And next year sees full roll out of the wraparound childcare programme.

But this is only the beginning. The Government and its partners value the role of all families in the Regular and Reserve forces and recognise their integral role in providing support to serving personnel based in the UK and overseas. Therefore, we are committed both to putting them at the heart of the Defence community and to helping them thrive in wider society. Together, under the principles of this strategy, we will continually review our policies to better support them, empower them and improve their lived experience.

Veterans' Strategy Action Plan 2022-24

[HLWS528]

Lord True: My Rt. Hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Steve Barclay MP), has today made the following written statement:

The Government has today published the Veterans' Strategy Action Plan 2022-24, setting out how we will continue to empower, support and champion our veteran community. Just as the Armed Forces have stood by our country in its times of need, the nation will continue to fulfil its duty by supporting our veterans in their civilian lives.

The Plan will deliver for veterans across three key areas. We will better understand our veteran community, making sure we have the information we need to inform policy and service design. We will transform services and support for veterans, building on progress already made to ensure we are meeting veterans' needs. We will celebrate our veterans and their contribution to society, so that all veterans feel their service is valued by the nation.

The Action Plan contains over 60 commitments, which together will provide a step change in provision. For most Service leavers, the successful transition into employment is the foundation of positive life outcomes. We will be doing more to champion the unique skill set of veterans to employers through a bespoke campaign and a new private sector employers advisory group. We will continue to support veterans to gain quality employment, with the roll out of the Great Place to Work for Veterans scheme, which guarantees interviews for veterans in the Civil Service. We are launching 'Advance into Justice' which will fast track veterans into prison officer roles. We will improve the Enhanced Learning Credit Scheme to make it easier for veterans to access a wider range of academic and vocational opportunities to support their development of a chosen career post-Service.

We will also invest in making better use of data than ever before, as well as digital programmes, including a £44 million digital transformation package. Compensation and pension services will be radically improved, with a new digital portal that will enable veterans to apply and track progress online. This will help the 1.2 million pensions members and 30,000 annual compensation claimants access services more quickly and easily.

We want to ensure all veterans feel their service is valued. Regrettably, some people have historically been excluded from serving their country. The government is determined to take bold steps to begin looking at how we can redress these past wrongs, and we will commission an independent review into the impact that the pre-2000 ban on Homosexuality in the Armed Forces has had on LGBT veterans today.

A further £18 million will be invested in health and wellbeing support for veterans. To bring improvements to mental health services, NHS England will bring the three

services offered under Op COURAGE into one long-term integrated service, making access easier for veterans and their families. The Veteran Trauma Network will be further developed to create an integrated plan to support the physical health of veterans. 'Veteran Aware' accreditation will continue to be rolled out across England – meaning more NHS trusts and GP practices than ever before will become veteran-friendly accredited.

The Office for Veterans' Affairs will work across government and beyond to make sure the Action Plan commitments are monitored and delivered. In 2024, the government will develop a Veterans' Strategy refresh, setting out how far we have come and what remains to be done to deliver on our policy ambition by 2028 to make the UK the best place in the world to be a veteran.

Written Answers

Wednesday, 19 January 2022

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Asked by *Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many bottles of wine were purchased for hospitality, entertainment, and related purposes, for consumption at No 10 Downing Street for the period from March 2020 and December 2021. [HL5082]

Asked by *Lord Bassam of Brighton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the monthly expenditure for hospitality, entertainment, and related purposes, at No 10 Downing Street for the period from March 2020 to December 2021. [HL5083]

Lord True: 10 Downing Street is a constituent part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office publishes transparency data by type of expenditure each month. I will place in the Library the published data for that period.

British Nationality

Asked by *Lord Anderson of Ipswich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were deprived of their citizenship under section 40(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 for each year from 2010 to 2018, broken down by (1) the grounds upon which those deprivation orders were made, (2) whether or not the individual had previously been granted refugee status, discretionary leave or humanitarian protection in the UK, (3) whether or not the individual was under the age of 18, and (4) whether the individual was in the UK at the time of the deprivation. [HL5076]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Figures for numbers of conducive deprivation orders, which are made under Section 40(2) of the 1981 British Nationality Act, have been published as part of the HM Government Transparency Report: Disruptive and Investigatory Powers. Four reports have been published to date in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020 which provide the number of deprivation of citizenship orders made up until the end of 2018.

Year	Number of Individuals
2010	5
2011	6
2012	5
2013	8
2014	4
2015	5

Year	Number of Individuals
2016	14
2017	104
2018	21

Figures are provided on an annual basis and we do not break those figures down further into sub-categories.

Asked by *Lord Anderson of Ipswich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when information relating to the use of deprivation of citizenship orders under section 40(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, and (3) 2021, will be published. [HL5077]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Figures for numbers of conducive deprivation orders, which are made under Section 40(2) of the 1981 British Nationality Act, have been published as part of the HM Government Transparency Report: Disruptive and Investigatory Powers. Four reports have been published to date in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020 which provide the number of deprivation of citizenship orders made up until the end of 2018.

A further publication which includes the more recent data is due to be published shortly.

Asked by *Lord Anderson of Ipswich*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many appeals against deprivation of citizenship orders under section 40(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981 have been made in each of the last five years; and how many of those appeals were upheld. [HL5079]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Figures for numbers of conducive deprivation orders, which are made under Section 40(2) of the 1981 British Nationality Act (BNA 1981), have been published as part of the HM Government Transparency Report: Disruptive and Investigatory Powers. Four reports have been published to date in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020 which provide the number of deprivation of citizenship orders made up until the end of 2018.

Figures are provided on an annual basis and we do not break those figures down further into sub-categories. However, data on the number of people who appealed against a deprivation of British citizenship decision under both Section 40(2) and 40(3) of the BNA 1981 has been published. The table shows a breakdown by year of appeals lodged between 05/03/2011 and 31/12/2018 against deprivation decisions and orders.

Year	No of people who lodged an appeal
2011	5
2012	5
2013	10

2014	29
2015	37
2016	41
2017	37
2018	88
Total	252

The following notes should be considered when viewing this data:

- 1) These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.
- 2) Data extracted on 17/05/2021.
- 3) Date relates to the number of people who lodged an appeal between 05/03/2011 and 31/12/2018 against a decision made on a deprivation case.
- 4) Data relates to main applicants only.

A number of the appeals in relation to deprivations under Section 40(2) of the BNA 1981 are ongoing. Therefore, we are unable to provide a partial figure of upheld appeals whilst litigation is ongoing.

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of people in each of the last five years who would have been deprived of their citizenship if there had been no requirement to give prior notification. [HL5080]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Prior to the recent High Court decision in the case of D4, the relevant regulations governing service of notice in deprivation cases, provided adequately for a variety of situations, meaning that there had been no cases where the notification requirement had prevented deprivation action from taking place.

British Nationality: Females

Asked by Lord Anderson of Ipswich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office on 27 January 2021 (UIN 139991), what assessment they have made of the protected characteristics of those deprived of citizenship; and what plans they have, if any, to collect and publish the data on this. [HL5081]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: In order for deprivation on 'conducive to the public good' grounds to be a consideration, the starting point is an individual's conduct, that the individual is a terrorist or an extremist, or involved in espionage, war crimes, serious organised crime or similarly dangerous activities, in order to meet the 'conducive to the public good' test.

Figures for numbers of conducive deprivation orders, which are made under Section 40(2) of the 1981 British Nationality Act, have been published as part of the HM Government Transparency Report: Disruptive and Investigatory Powers. Four reports have been published to date in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020.

Figures are provided on an annual basis and we do not break those figures down further into sub-categories.

College of Policing: Hate Crime

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Court of Appeal ruling that the College of Policing guidance on non-crime hate incidents was unlawful, what plans they have to suspend any guidance issued by the College of Policing. [HL5089]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the 110,000 people who have been recorded as having committed non-crime hate incidents; and what plans they have, if any, to assist such individuals in bringing legal action against the College of Policing. [HL5090]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to suspend guidance produced by the College of Policing until such guidance can be laid before Parliament as regulations. [HL5091]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to remove the people recorded as having committed non-crimes hate incidents from police records. [HL5092]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, (1) to investigate, and (2) to dismiss, those in the College of Policing who approved the non-crime hate incidents guidance. [HL5093]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises the concern surrounding the recording of non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs). We have also noted the recent Court of Appeal judgment in the Harry Miller v College of Policing case that was handed down on 20 December 2021. The Court found that the recording of NCHIs is lawful provided that there are robust safeguards in place so that the interference with freedom of expression is proportionate.

Accordingly, we have tabled amendments to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to ensure that the recording of NCHIs is governed by a Code of Practice that is subject to Parliamentary approval. The content of the Code will be drafted in due course, and will make the processes surrounding the recording and retention of

NCHI data more transparent and subject to stronger safeguards.

The College of Policing will also reflect on the Court of Appeal's judgment carefully and make any changes that are necessary to its existing guidance which will remain in force in the interim period before the new Code enters into effect.

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks made by Lord Kamall on 29 November (HL Deb, col 1223), what discussions they have held to ensure that countries are not disincentivised from transparent reporting of variants to the World Health Organisation. [HL4909]

Lord Kamall: On 29 November 2021, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care chaired a meeting of G7 Health Ministers to discuss the spread of the Omicron variant. G7 Health Ministers praised the exemplary work of South Africa in detecting the variant and alerting other countries. Health Ministers committed to working with other nations to share information and ensure transparent reporting of variants.

Coronavirus: Protective Clothing

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any (1) person, or (2) organisation, will be censured for defaults involving the 47 VIP public contracts for facemasks and surgical gowns; and what steps they have taken in connection with defaults associated with their contract with PPE MedPro. [HL4883]

Lord Kamall: We have no plans to censure a single individual or organisation. The contract with PPE Medpro is considered commercially sensitive as the Department is currently engaged in a mediation process concerning their products, which involves confidentiality undertakings.

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether those who arrived as (1) refugees, and (2) migrants, in the UK in the past year are receiving priority for COVID-19 vaccinations. [HL5126]

Lord Kamall: Vaccination against COVID-19 is offered to every adult living in the United Kingdom free of charge, regardless of immigration status. This includes those who arrived as refugees and migrants, providing they are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Entitlement to free National Health Service treatment is generally based on ordinary residence in the UK. A person who can show they have taken up ordinary residence in the UK can access all NHS services immediately, including COVID-

19 vaccinations, based on clinical need. No immigration checks are needed to receive these services and the NHS is not required to report undocumented migrants to the Home Office.

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that those not registered with a GP are able to access COVID-19 vaccinations. [HL5130]

Lord Kamall: Individuals do not need to be registered with a general practitioner (GP) to use a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site. Under the General Practice COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service Specification, GP practices are able to vaccinate unregistered patients when they are eligible.

Local systems have plans for full coverage of all health inclusion groups, which may include people not registered with a GP. The National Health Service and local partners will contact these patients to ensure they are offered appropriate support to receive the vaccine. We are also working with community leaders and partners on initiatives to encourage people to register with a GP.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government who is responsible for giving the COVID-19 booster vaccination to housebound patients; and what is their mechanism for delivery if their GPs have opted out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. [HL5172]

Lord Kamall: The National Health Service is responsible for providing COVID-19 booster vaccinations to housebound patients. If a general practitioner (GP) practice is signed up to the Enhanced Service for phase three of the vaccination programme, the practice will provide booster doses to housebound patients or make alternative arrangements. If a practice is not signed up to the Enhanced Service, they will request that the local clinical commissioning group make arrangements via another Primary Care Network (PCN) grouping or alternative provider.

Some patients may be able to attend a PCN designated site with assistance. Discussions should be held between the GP and the patient's family and/or carer to facilitate this. For those patients who are unable to travel to a designated site, PCNs have established mobile or roving vaccination teams to deliver COVID-19 vaccines directly in an individual's home.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the COVID-19 vaccination programme to all 5 to 11 year olds. [HL5271]

Lord Kamall: On 22 December 2021, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advised that children aged five to 11 years old in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, should be offered two 10 microgram doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine with an

interval of eight weeks between the first and second doses. Further advice and assessment regarding COVID-19 vaccination for other five to 11 year olds will be issued in due course following consideration of additional data.

Electric Scooters: Road Traffic Offences

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many e-scooters have been seized for illegal use, and (2) how many fines have been imposed, in each of the last three months in England. [HL5137]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of motoring offences in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, which can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>. However, the Home Office does not hold information on the numbers and types of vehicle seized for illegal use, or figures for the number of fines imposed for the illegal use of e-scooters.

Equality Act 2010

Asked by Baroness Gale

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to enact section 106 of the Equality Act 2010. [HL5232]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government keeps section 106 of the Equality Act 2010 under review but remains of the view that political parties should lead the way in increasing diverse electoral representation through their own approaches to the selection of candidates.

Euro 2020: Arrests

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 20 December 2021 (HL4820), how many arrests were made of people identified using CCTV footage and other sources following the Euro 2020 final between England and Italy on 11 July 2021; and what assessment they have made of the report by Baroness Casey of Blackstone published in December 2021 in relation to these arrests. [HL5084]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not hold data that categorises arrests made following the Euro 2020 final as CCTV related or resulting from other sources.

The Government is considering the recommendations that Baroness Casey of Blackstock's report contains.

Flour: Folic Acid

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Written Statement by Lord Kamall on 11 October (HLWS298), what progress is being made in introducing mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid. [HL5263]

Lord Kamall: Officials from the Department of Health and Social Care, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland are working to implement folic acid fortification, as part of the review on the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998 and the Bread and Flour (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1998.

The UK Government and the devolved administrations have engaged industry on the decision to fortify non-wholemeal wheat flour with folic acid and are now developing draft legislation and an impact assessment for future consultation.

Government Departments: Procurement

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the 47 VIP public contracts involving facemasks and surgical gowns have led to defaults that are now in dispute; what estimate they have made of the percentage of public contracts that involve defaults; and what is the total cost to public funds of public contracts that involve defaults. [HL4882]

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

Heat Pumps: Housing

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many annual extra heat pump installations the introduction of the Future Homes Standard from 2025 will incentivise. [HL5144]

Lord Callanan: The Government will be consulting on the exact technical specification of the Future Homes Standard in 2023. A robust estimate of the impact of the standard with regards heat pump installations will be possible once its technical specification is finalised.

We are clear however that when it is implemented in 2025, all new homes built to the Future Homes Standard will have low carbon heating, such as heat pumps. With that in mind, the Department's impact assessment on our proposal to introduce a market-based mechanism for low carbon heat included an indicative estimate of up to around 200,000 heat pump installations per year from 2027, consistent with DLUHC estimates of around 250,000 annual net new-build completions from 2023 to 2029.

Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority: Human Trafficking

Asked by *Baroness Lister of Burtersett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 13 December 2021 (HL4899), what assessment they have made of how the creation of an Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority will streamline decision making with regard to the identification of victims of trafficking through the National Referral Mechanism. [HL5135]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (IECA) was created to 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.

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. We will regularly review this data to understand the impact of the change and ensure policies are being applied consistently.

The creation of the IECA was an internal restructure within the Home Office. A full assessment of the Public Sector Equality Duty was undertaken and, in line with our ongoing duty, will be kept under review.

Immunosuppression: Coronavirus

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to protect the (1) primary, and (2) secondary, immunodeficiency community against COVID-19 this winter. [HL4490]

Lord Kamall: On 29 November 2021, the Government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in response to the emergence of the Omicron variant. The JCVI advised that severely immunosuppressed individuals who have completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine of three primary doses, should be offered a booster vaccination, with a minimum of three months between the third primary and booster dose. Those who have not yet received their third primary dose may receive the third dose immediately with a booster dose in three months, in line with the clinical advice on optimal timing.

Immunocompromised individuals are a priority cohort for research into therapeutic and prophylaxis treatments such as monoclonal antibody therapies, novel antivirals, and repurposed compounds. For those patients in the highest risk cohort who have not been hospitalised, treatments can be accessed from COVID Medicines Delivery Units where clinically eligible. These treatments include the anti-viral drug molnupiravir and the monoclonal antibody infusion sotrovimab. The

monoclonal antibody treatment ronapreve is available to treat the most vulnerable hospitalised patients where genotyping shows they are not infected by the Omicron variant. Where vulnerable patients with hospital-onset COVID-19 which is confirmed as the Omicron variant, they may be eligible to receive sotrovimab.

In addition, oral antiviral treatments are available through PANORAMIC national study, run by the University of Oxford. This study is open to clinically eligible individuals in the United Kingdom.

Immunotherapy: Shortages

Asked by *Lord Mendelsohn*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what changes they have made to the commissioning eligibility criteria for immunoglobulin use since the identification of a shortage of immunoglobulin; and (1) when, and (2) how, these will be implemented. [HL4724]

Lord Kamall: In 2021, NHS England and NHS Improvement updated the clinical commissioning criteria for the use of therapeutic immunoglobulin. This update was independent of any shortages in the supply of immunoglobulin. The criteria were amended to reflect the conditions where therapeutic immunoglobulin treatment is now routinely commissioned and those where this treatment would no longer be routinely commissioned. This follows a clinical evidence review; advice from the Immunoglobulin Expert Working Group; engagement with patients and clinicians; and the development of updated clinical policies for particular specialities. NHS England and NHS Improvement's revised criteria was issued to National Health Service providers on 9 December 2021 for immediate implementation.

Tables showing a list of new indications where therapeutic immunoglobulin treatment is now routinely commissioned and where the treatment will be no longer routinely commissioned are attached, due to the size of the data. The indications removed from the 2021 commissioning criteria due to limited clinical evidence for the efficacy of the treatment will be subject to further stakeholder testing in 2022 to determine future commissioning policy in these areas. In the interim these indications remain commissioned indications until the stakeholder testing has been completed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [TABLES FOR MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE HL4724 Tables .docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2021-12-06/HL4724>

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Asked by *Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the CO2 emissions resulting from the mandatory incineration of fallen livestock; and what

plans, if any, they have to allow livestock to be buried rather than incinerated. [HL5155]

Lord Benyon: No assessment has been made of the CO2 emissions from incineration of fallen livestock.

Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 13 percent since 1990 (as of 2019), with many farms using more efficient agricultural practices. Land use, land use change and forestry continue to provide benefits in carbon sequestration. The Government recognises the importance of reducing emissions further in these sectors. The Net Zero Strategy and the 25 Year Environment Plan set out the Government's ambition for how this will be achieved.

Rules regarding the disposal of fallen livestock are in place to protect animal and public health by preventing dangerous pathogens spreading disease into the soil, groundwater, or air. Some pathogens can persist for many decades in the environment and only tiny quantities are needed to infect animals. Therefore, strict regulations are in place as to why fallen livestock cannot be buried but must be disposed of at one of the following: knackers' yard, hunt kennel, maggot farm, incinerator, or a renderer. We have no plans to consider the option of burying.

Mathematics: Research

Asked by Lord Clement-Jones

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support research into mathematics that is not defined as affecting the physical and material universe. [HL5099]

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.

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

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the (1) objectives, and (2) timeline, of the strategy being developed by the MedTech Directorate in relation to innovation, resilience, effectiveness and value for money in the medical devices sector. [HL5174]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the MedTech Directorate will publish their strategy on the medical devices market; when the strategy will be opened up for public consultation; and in what form the consultation will take place. [HL5175]

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the MedTech Directorate is taking to ensure effective engagement during the development of strategy for the medical devices market with (1) patient associations, (2) clinician nurse specialist groups, and (3) manufacturers and suppliers of relevant medical devices. [HL5176]

Lord Kamall: The MedTech strategy is planned for publication in the first half of 2022. It will consider regulation, resilience, sustainability and innovation to ensure safety, clinical efficacy and value for money. It aims to ensure resilience in supply chains, enhance innovation, build infrastructure including data and collaboration with industry.

The MedTech Directorate has engaged stakeholders in public bodies and with industry on the strategy's objectives and priorities. The strategy does not meet the formal requirement to undertake a public consultation. Engagement has focused on those stakeholders most impacted by the strategy in industry and the healthcare system. Once the strategy is drafted, we will seek their feedback and endorsement including through the NHS Medical Advisory Group. This is formed of clinicians, nurses, public bodies and industry via trade associations, manufacturers and suppliers of relevant medical devices.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Asked by Lord Stevens of Birmingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it remains their policy, set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, that funding for mental health services should annually grow as a share of overall NHS revenue expenditure. [HL5153]

Lord Kamall: The NHS Long Term Plan committed to increase spending on mental health services in real terms by at least £2.3 billion a year by 2023/24. We are ensuring every clinical commissioning group and integrated care board meets the Mental Health Investment Standard for spending on mental health to increase at least in line with the growth in their overall funding allocations.

Northern Ireland Protocol: Packaging

Asked by Lord Dodds of Duncairn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 24 December 2021 (HL4865), whether, under the law currently in force, 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. [HL5305]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: There is currently nothing to prevent goods from Northern Ireland from using GB packaging.

Penrith (North Lakes) Station: Buildings

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 21 December (HL4992), what plans they have to (1) dispose of, or (2) otherwise get value for the taxpayer, from the former Station Master's House at Penrith North Lakes Railway Station. [HL5220]

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.

Pheasants

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they regard captive-reared pheasants released into the environment as livestock or wildlife. [HL5087]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: A released captive-reared pheasant may be regarded as livestock if it remains significantly dependent on a keeper for their survival, for example for the provision of food, water, or shelter.

Prerogative of Mercy

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many royal pardons were granted to people with terrorism-related convictions between 1991 and 2003. [HL5110]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: I can confirm that no applications for Royal Prerogative of Mercy were recommended to Her Majesty the Queen for terrorism related offences between 1991 and 2003.

Prisoners' Release: Females

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of hidden homelessness among women

leaving prison; and how, if at all, this is recorded in accommodation outcomes. [HL5131]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are available to the Community Accommodation Service to account for the needs of women leaving prison. [HL5132]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the link between homelessness and reoffending for women leaving prison. [HL5133]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: We recognise how important it is that everyone leaving prison should have somewhere to live, as accommodation enables offenders to hold down a job and reduces the likelihood of them re-offending.

Community Probation Practitioners and Homelessness Prevention Teams take proactive steps before release with prison leavers at risk of homelessness, including referral to Local Housing Authorities and working with partners and providers.

Evidence shows that there is a link between homelessness and reoffending; Prison leavers without settled accommodation are 50 per cent more likely to reoffend. The Government has, therefore, made addressing rough sleeping a priority and the Ministry of Justice is committed to working across government to end rough sleeping.

The Target Operating Model for probation services in England and Wales, published in February 2021, included performance measures for prison leavers housed on release from custody (90%), and settled accommodation for all supervised individuals (those released from prison and those on community sentences) three months after commencement of their supervision (80%). Accommodation circumstances for offenders are reported annually as official statistics. Data for the period 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 will be published in July 2022 in the Community Performance Annual report.

The Prisons Strategy White Paper, published in December, sets out our vision for reducing reoffending. This includes our aim that no-one subject to probation supervision is released from prison homeless. We are therefore expanding our new Community Accommodation Service to support the thousands of people in England and Wales who leave prison each year without accommodation. The service takes account of the needs of women, including those with complex needs, with accommodation provision dedicated to single gender usage as required. Community Probation Practitioners, working together with local partners, are responsible for ensuring that vulnerable female prison leavers receive appropriate support and are provided with housing beyond the 12 weeks emergency accommodation.

Prisoners: Disciplinary Proceedings

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many adjudications were received by women in prison aged (1) 18–24, or (2) 25 years or older, for each of the last 10 years. [HL5115]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many adjudications were received by men in prison aged (1) 18–24, or (2) 25 years or older, for each of the last 10 years. [HL5116]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The prisoner discipline system upholds justice in prisons and ensures incidents of prison rule-breaking have consequences. The Ministry of Justice monitors adjudication outcomes by offence, age, gender, ethnicity, religion and adjudicator, this data is published quarterly and can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>. The specific information requested can be found in the table attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2022-01-19 HL 5115 - HL5116 Data.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-01-05/HL5115>

Prisoners: Mental Health Services

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women in prison aged (1) 18–24, or (2) 25 years or older, have been (a) in receipt of mental health care, or (b) referred to mental health support, whilst in custody. [HL5113]

Lord Kamall: This information is not collected in the format requested.

However, NHS England and NHS Improvement have advised that, as at 30 November 2021, the records of nine women aged 18 to 24 years old and 324 women aged 25 years old and over in prison indicate a severe and enduring mental health condition according to Quality and Outcomes Framework definitions and are likely to have received related intervention for their condition. This represents women presenting with significant levels of mental ill-health requiring specialist mental health service interventions and does not include women in custody who have accessed primary care mental health services and are treated through normal primary care provision for lower level presentations.

Prisoners: Restraint Techniques

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Gloucester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women in prison aged (1) 18–24, or (2) 25 years or older,

experienced physical restraint by one or more members of staff in each of the last 10 years. [HL5114]

Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: We can only provide the requested data on use of force incidents involving women in prison aged (1) 18–24, or (2) 25 years or older, by one or more members of staff for the period of year ending March 2019 to year ending March 2021. This is detailed in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

We cannot access the requested data for the previous seven years as we did not collate the information on an individual case basis and are unable to do so retrospectively.

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.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Table [2022-01-19 HL5114 UoF PQ 06012022 GF update for release.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-01-05/HL5114>

Prostate Cancer: Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that irreversible electroporation for the treatment of prostate cancer is made available more widely in the NHS, following the pilot by University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. [HL5122]

Lord Kamall: At present, nanoknife or irreversible electroporation treatment should only be provided to prostate cancer patients in the National Health Service in England as part of research studies, in line with recommendations made by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). As this procedure would fall within NHS England and NHS Improvement's direct commissioning responsibility for specialised services, clinicians can submit new policy applications at any time, where they consider that there is clear evidence of benefit for patients.

Qualifications

Asked by Lord Inglewood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to introduce standard tests for safeguarding for organisations in order to provide evidence of nationally recognised levels of attainment. [HL5127]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Safeguarding relates to a wide range of activity in a variety of settings, and covers a number of potentially vulnerable groups. It is right that organisational safeguarding policies are able to reflect specific sector needs, within clear regulatory frameworks.

A number of government departments lead on setting safeguarding standards, guidance and training across the sectors for which they have policy responsibility. For example, the Home Office oversees safeguarding from a policing perspective, the Department for Education leads on safeguarding within education settings, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport are responsible for safeguarding within civil society organisations, and the Department of Health and Social Care assure that the NHS is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities.

Government departments work closely together to share learning and feedback on safeguarding policy and standards across different settings. For example, there is close collaboration between the Home Office, DHSC and DfE on the implementation of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for children, ensuring robust join-up across local authorities, health and policing.

Refugees: Afghanistan

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish their plans to implement the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. [HL5146]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: As set out in my Oral Statement to the House on 6th January, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) has now been launched: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oral-statement-on-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>.

The ACRS will provide up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

Refugees: Temporary Accommodation

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what responsibility the devolved administrations have for supervising the allocation of temporary homes for refugees within their respective nation. [HL5149]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works closely with the devolved administrations, as well as strategic migration partnerships and local authorities, on the allocation of both short and long term accommodation for refugees resettled to the UK.

Social Security Benefits

Asked by Lord Holmes of Richmond

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 30 November (HL Deb, col 1265), what new solutions to support citizens who use its services the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is exploring; whether the DWP is running any proof of concepts on digital payments; what "alternative technologies" they are considering; and what plans they have to reconsider distributed ledger technology solutions. [HL5121]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: DWP is committed to harnessing the potential of new technologies in making a positive difference to our customers' lives.

The department is currently undertaking a modernisation programme of work which does also include reimagining the future of payments, exploring using disruptive and alternative technologies to challenge traditional thinking and processes.

DWP has previously undertaken proof of concept using disruptive technologies such as Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology to challenge and change how we manage and distribute money, drive more resilience and security. In this proof of concept, DWP examined how blockchain technologies could be used to issue welfare payments to our banking partners on a near real-time basis, helping reduce 3rd party dependencies. During this initial internal proof of concept, no claimants were involved and the work was used to inform the decision to develop a future method of payment strategy that outlines DWP's commitment to improving the methods available to make payments to customers.

We continue to explore payment innovations, including distributed ledger and blockchain technologies and their potential to securely deliver services that our customers rely on.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Asked by Baroness Buscombe

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the overall figure for benefit fraud to reduce back to the levels seen prior to March 2020. [HL5097]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We are developing the options for setting an overall fraud and error target. Targets will reflect the recent announcement of an additional £510m investment and the attendant initiatives we are developing to further reduce the fraud and error rate.

We will provide more information on this in our 2022 Annual Report and Accounts.

Travel: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Tyrie

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they made of the number of PCR tests for travel that would be required between the date of the announcement of their reintroduction of the requirement on 7 December and (1) 5 January 2022, or (2) a date for which an estimate may have been made covering the Christmas and New Year period. [HL5069]

Lord Kamall: The maximum number of travellers per week forecast for the period of 7 December 2021 to 5 January 2022 was 1 to 1.5 million. Providers indicated capacity of approximately 4.4 million polymerase chain reaction tests per week, sufficient for the number required for travel.

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