

**Session 2022-23  
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**Wednesday  
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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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<b>Lord Greenhalgh</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Grimstone of Boscobel</b>	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Harrington of Watford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Kamall</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<b>Lord Offord of Garvel</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
<b>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Whip
<b>Baroness Penn</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Scott of Bybrook</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Sharpe of Epsom</b>	Whip
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<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

## Defence and Security Industrial Strategy

[HLWS35]

**Baroness Goldie:** My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Defence Procurement (Jeremy Quin MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I wish to update Parliament on the progress made since the publication of the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) on 23 March 2021.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has highlighted even more the importance of a sustainable and resilient sector that generates the necessary skills to deliver the capabilities we and our partners need, now and in the future.

Over the past 12 months, Government and industry have made significant progress on more than 50 DSIS commitments, and today, I am pleased to announce the publication of the Land Industrial Strategy (LIS) which will be published on the gov.uk website shortly. I am also placing a copy in the Library of the House.

### *The Land Industrial Strategy*

The LIS draws on DSIS principles to provide, for the first time, a specific strategy for the sector. It sets the conditions for a long-term collaborative approach, based on shared culture and behaviours that support co-investment in capability delivery, innovation, the strengthening of supply chains and the national industrial resilience the UK needs to respond to crisis.

The LIS is not intended to prevent MOD looking overseas to acquire where appropriate the best value for money equipment. It is however designed to encourage greater transparency and partnerships especially with onshore suppliers.

The LIS should support the delivery of modernised equipment to the frontline more quickly and efficiently. Key platforms will serve for decades, so we will use open architectures, commonality, and modularity, and work with industry to make upgrades through-life. This will give us enhanced capabilities and decisive advantage against adversaries, and, with our allies, the critical 'technological edge' needed in this Information Age.

### *Partnerships*

In the coming years, Government will be asking more of industry, to become more efficient and more enterprising, ensuring we have access to the skills and capabilities we need. This is why we are offering greater long-term transparency on our plans and policies. Since DSIS, MOD has published strategies for Digital, Data, Shipbuilding, Space and now Land. Other documents such as the Defence Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy will be published shortly.

In addition, we are now going beyond the commitments set out a year ago and, building on the principles of DSIS, we will soon be publishing a Defence Capability

Framework that will articulate our longer-term military capability priorities and challenges, providing greater transparency of our future plans and building upon the Equipment Plan 21. It will map out those areas where we expect industry to invest and upskill; combining our collective efforts to achieve the best outcomes for the UK.

In January, in recognition of the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for innovation, diversity, and resilience in MOD's supply chains, we published the refreshed SME Action plan, which sets out how MOD will continue to create opportunities for SMEs.

I will shortly be launching the Defence Technology Exploitation Programme (DTEP) - a UK-wide initiative that will fund and support collaborative projects between SMEs and higher tier Defence suppliers - and help them win new business delivering against MOD's technological priorities.

DSIS also focuses on strengthening our partnerships abroad including through developing our Government-to-Government frameworks to better support defence exports.

### *Acquisition and Procurement Reform*

Closer to home, we are driving increased pace into acquisition and incentivising innovation and productivity through a range of acquisition improvement initiatives and fundamental reforms of the regulations that govern defence and security procurement and single source contracts.

The implementation of Category Management is expected to result in financial savings, and capability benefits such as improved availability and time to delivery, through a pan-Defence approach to buying goods and services.

We are improving the way that we manage our Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) cadre by introducing an SRO talent pool and ensuring that our SRO skills are matched to the challenges of the projects. We are also targeting the SROs on our biggest projects allocating at least 50% of their time to the task.

We have implemented the Social Value model within MOD's procurement process, ensuring contracts deliver against key MOD outcomes and also support wider Government objectives. The MOD's Social Value Centre of Expertise has been established and is ensuring this model is consistently applied.

In March, the Joint Economic Data Hub published its first annual report, highlighting the important role the defence sector makes to the UK economy, including the large number of defence jobs supported by international business as well as the many apprentices and graduates in the sector. This is part of the drive by Defence to be more transparent in setting out the economic contribution the defence sector makes across the UK.

### *Innovation*

This Government has reversed the long-term decline in Research and Development through additional funding and our ringfenced investment of at least £6.6bn over the

four years of the 2020 Spending Review. We have increased funding to the UK Defence Solutions Centre and the Defence and Security Accelerator, which is helping turn private sector innovation into military capability.

In February, the UK's first Defence Space Strategy included a commitment to invest a further £1.4 billion into space technologies over the next decade (with additional innovation funding since being provided); and in March, I opened Dstl's first regional S&T Hub in Newcastle upon Tyne, focussing on AI and Data Science to exploit the latest technological breakthroughs for use across Defence.

We are also working closely across Government with the Joint Security and Resilience Centre at the Home Office and UK Defence and Security Exports at DIT, to create a more resilient, more efficient, and more innovative security sector.

#### *Conclusion*

We have made significant progress in the first year of DSIS, but there is more to be done. The Defence Secretary and I, supported by other Government Ministers, will continue to review progress against commitments to make sure our Armed Forces will continue to get the equipment and capabilities they need to keep us safe and drive prosperity.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Land Industrial Strategy [20220517-ADR010387\_LIS.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2022-05-18/HLWS35/>

## **Fire Reform White Paper and Improving Fire Safety for the Public**

[HLWS34]

**Lord Greenhalgh:** I am pleased to make a number of announcements to the House today that set out both the Government's fire reform agenda and the introduction of a package of fire safety measures that will protect the public for years to come. Taken together, this is about:

- 1) Driving forward reform of the Fire and Rescue Service by launching the Fire Reform White Paper and consultation (CP 670).
- 2) Implementing a package of measures to improve fire safety.
- 3) Improving transparency and engaging the public.

#### *Fire Reform White Paper and Consultation*

The Fire Reform White Paper and consultation seeks to introduce system-wide reform to strengthen fire and rescue services across England. The proposals are set out under three key themes: people; professionalism; and governance. The consultation is launching today to seek views and will be open for 10 weeks.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-our-fire-and-rescue-service>

#### *Review of the National Joint Council*

As set out in the White Paper the government will launch a review of the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services. The review, which will commence later this year, will consider whether the pay negotiation mechanism in England is fit for purpose.

#### *The Fire Safety Act 2021*

The Fire Safety Act 2021 was commenced in full on 16 May 2022. This will clarify that structure, external walls and flat entrance doors of blocks of flats are within scope of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order) and ensure that they are included in that building's fire risk assessment.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-act-2021>.

#### *Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool*

To support commencement of the Fire Safety Act 2021, the Home Office is publishing supporting guidance issued under article 50 of the Fire Safety Order and launching an online prioritisation tool. The new Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool has been developed to help Responsible Persons identify the priority for updating fire risk assessments.

#### **Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool**

#### *Fire Safety (Regulations) 2022*

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 will require Responsible Persons to send information on high-rise residential buildings which will help fire and rescue services better plan for and respond to a fire. They will also improve fire safety in high-rise buildings by setting a baseline on safety checks on lifts for firefighters and other key pieces of firefighting equipment and, in mid-rise buildings, on doors. They will also make residents in all multi-occupied residential buildings feel safer by providing them with fire safety instructions and information on the importance of fire doors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-england-regulations-2022>

#### *Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) consultation response, and new consultation*

We are publishing the responses to our PEEPs consultation which we ran from 8 June to 19 July 2021.

We have taken account of the substantial difficulties of mandating PEEPs in high rise residential buildings and have developed new proposals that we are confident deliver proportionality, practicality and improve safety for those vulnerable people living in the highest risk buildings. We will now consult and seek views on these proposals.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/personal-emergency-evacuation-plans>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/emergency-evacuation-information-sharing>

*Fourth thematic update on Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations*

We are publishing our latest update on progress against Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations. This shows progress made by Government departments, and relevant public authorities, including the London Fire Brigade, and National Fire Chiefs Council. The tracker provides a digestible, transparent way for the public to hold those responsible for delivering recommendations to account.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quarterly-thematic-update-on-progress-against-the-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-1-recommendations>

Fires in high-rise residential buildings in England are rare, and thankfully deaths from fires in high-rise residential buildings are extremely rare. The Government, however, is committed to learning the lessons of the tragedy at Grenfell Tower.

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

### Immunosuppression: Coronavirus

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immunocompromised individuals have been hospitalised in England with COVID-19 since 17 March. [HL158]

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immunocompromised individuals have died in England as a result of COVID-19 since 17 March. [HL159]

**Lord Kamall:** The information requested is not held centrally.

### NHS and Social Services: Finance

Asked by **Lord Field of Birkenhead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the percentage of GDP that will be spent on health and social care once their current reforms are fully implemented. [HL55]

**Baroness Penn:** Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 set out departmental budgets, including those for health and social care, until 2024-25. The Department of Health and Social Care's settlement provided an increase to resource and capital spending to £188.6 billion in 2024-25.

GDP is subject to change over time and the government does not generally estimate individual department allocations as a share of GDP. However, total government spending as a percentage of GDP is included in the Spring Statement 2022 document which is based on the most recent forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

### Personal Savings

Asked by **Lord Birt**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to assess (1) whether the market for savers is working effectively, and (2) why the interest rates offered to savers by the major banks are not rising in line with the Bank of England base rate. [HL25]

**Baroness Penn:** The Government recognises that over recent years low interest rates have made it challenging for people's savings to grow. This is why the Government remains committed to supporting savers of all income levels and at all stages of life to save and has introduced a range of measures to support this.

The amount of money that individuals can save into their ISAs each year has been increased to a record £20,000 and a Personal Savings Allowance of up to £1,000 for basic rate taxpayers and up to £500 for higher rate taxpayers has been introduced. These measures mean that around 95% of people with savings income pay no tax on that income, giving consumers more flexibility to shop around when choosing the best savings product for them.

Alongside these measures, the Lifetime ISA allows younger people to benefit from a 25% government bonus on up to £4,000 of savings each year towards a first home, or later life. While the Help to Save scheme supports working families on low incomes to build up a rainy-day fund by offering a 50% bonus on up to £50 of monthly saving.

However, the pricing of financial products, including the interest rates offered on savings accounts, is a commercial decision for firms and the Government does not plan to intervene in, or make assessments of, such decisions.

The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England makes monetary policy decisions independently of the Government. The MPC sets the base rate of interest, which is known as the Bank Rate. This is the rate of interest the Bank of England will pay on reserves held with them by commercial banks. MPC decisions over Bank Rate guide commercial banks' decisions over retail interest rates, i.e. interest rates they charge on loans and pay on deposits. However, commercial banks also make commercial judgements that influence the degree of pass-through from changes in Bank Rate into retail interest rates, with conditions in financial markets and in the banking sector also influencing interest rates paid on deposits or charged for lending.

### Travellers: Media

Asked by **Baroness Whitaker**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Leeds Gypsy & Traveller Exchange and London Gypsies and Travellers, in collaboration with PIRC Media that Moves, published on 27 January; and what steps they are taking to support the recommendations in that report. [HL114]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Her Majesty's Government has noted the report and its findings.

Regarding the report's findings on press regulations, Her Majesty's Government is committed to a free and independent media. It is not appropriate for Her Majesty's Government to arbitrate on what should or should not be published or broadcast. Ofcom is the UK's independent regulator of television services. The Ofcom Broadcasting Code covers standards in programmes and has rules to ensure that broadcast news is reported with due accuracy

and impartiality. There exists an independent self-regulatory regime to ensure that the press adheres to a wider set of clear and appropriate standards, and to offer individuals a means of redress where these are not met.

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