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Tuesday
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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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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Lord Benyon	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Whip
Lord Caine	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Baroness Goldie	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Greenhalgh	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lord Grimstone of Boscobel	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
Lord Harrington of Watford	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
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 and Whip
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
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Digital Economy Act 2017: Data Sharing

[HLWS77]

Lord True: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Secretary (Mrs Heather Wheeler MP) has today made the following statement:

The Cabinet Office's Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) has today published the Government's response to the public consultation on data sharing to support early learning and childcare in Scotland.

In January 2022, the UK Government, in partnership with the Scottish Government consulted on draft regulations to enable data sharing to target funded early learning and childcare (ELC) for certain 2 year olds in Scotland. The consultation set out draft regulations to allow data sharing between HMRC, DWP, the Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities in order to help identify and contact households that have a 2 year old eligible for funded early learning and childcare. The regulations would create an objective for the purpose of which relevant data may be shared under section 35 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 (otherwise known as the "public service delivery power").

There were 69 responses during the 8 week consultation period. Responses were decidedly positive. A clear majority of respondents agreed that the proposed data share would improve and target a service to eligible households and improve their wellbeing. Respondents also agreed that the data sharing would deliver tangible benefits to households, including early stage support to promote education, health and social equalities.

Importantly, the majority of respondents agreed that the personal data items to be shared - specifically including the customer (parent or carer) name, address and National Insurance number (for unique identification), as well as a child(ren) indicator to confirm the existence of a child, or children, is limited to what is necessary and consistent with ELC service delivery.

The UK Government is reassured that the responses are broadly positive and welcome the helpful input from respondents. As the Scottish Parliament can only approve proposals for new objectives which solely involve specified Scottish bodies permitted to make use of the public service delivery power, and the proposed objective would involve disclosure and processing of data held by UK departments (HMRC and DWP), the draft regulations must be taken through the UK Parliament by the UK Government. The UK Government will take forward legislation as soon as parliamentary time allows.

I have asked that the government response be deposited in the libraries of both Houses in Parliament and published on GOV.UK.

HS2 Crewe-Manchester Scheme: "Golborne Link"

[HLWS76]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (Andrew Stephenson), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

The "Golborne Link," part of the HS2 Crewe-Manchester scheme, is a proposed c.13 mile connection which would branch off the main HS2 line towards Manchester near Knutsford, in Cheshire, to rejoin the West Coast Main Line (WCML) near Golborne, just south of Wigan. Construction was due to start in the early 2030s and it was due to open in the late 2030s or early 2040s as part of the second stage of HS2 services to Scotland.

In October 2020, the government established the independent Union Connectivity Review, led by the chairman of Network Rail, Sir Peter Hendy, to consider how best to improve transport connectivity between the nations of the UK.

Sir Peter's final report, in November 2021, set out that the Golborne Link would not resolve all the rail capacity constraints on the WCML between Crewe and Preston. He recommended that the Government should reduce journey times and increase rail capacity between England and Scotland by upgrading the WCML north of Crewe and by doing more work on options for alternative northerly connections between HS2 and the WCML.

Ahead of the Government's response to the Union Connectivity Review, we can confirm the Government will look again at alternatives which deliver similar benefits to Scotland as the Golborne link, so long as these deliver for the taxpayer within the £96bn envelope allocated for the Integrated Rail Plan. We will look at the potential for these alternatives to bring benefits to passengers sooner, allowing improved Scotland services from Manchester and Manchester Airport, as well as from Birmingham and London. HS2 trains will continue to serve Wigan and Preston, as well as Lancaster, Cumbria and Scotland.

Government therefore intends to remove the Golborne link from the High-Speed Rail (Crewe-Manchester) Bill after Second Reading. That means that we will no longer be seeking the powers to construct the link as part of this scheme. The Crewe-Manchester HS2 mainline will remain in the Bill as before. Plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail will also be unaffected.

Our plans for the first-stage HS2 services to Scotland in Phases 1 and 2a of the scheme (between London and the West Midlands, and the West Midlands and Crewe) will also be unaffected, with HS2 trains operating from London to Scotland when services begin running, in the late 2020s or early 2030s.

We will publish a Supplement to the January 2022 HS2 Crewe-Manchester scheme Strategic Outline business case, setting out the implications of removing the Golborne Link, prior to Second Reading.

I am also publishing revised safeguarding Directions for the Crewe – Manchester Scheme to reflect the Bill's limits and protect the land that may be required for the construction and operation of the high speed railway.

I am maintaining safeguarding along the Golborne Link while alternatives are considered. This means we plan to keep existing compensation programmes in place for affected homeowners so that they can still access support as needed. The Government periodically reviews land requirements needed for the project and updates the extent of safeguarding accordingly.

A copy of the Safeguarding Directions will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and made publicly accessible online.

Sir Robert Francis QC's Infected Blood Compensation Study

[HLWS78]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Rt Hon Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and HM Paymaster General (Michael Ellis QC MP) has today made the following statement:

Today the Government is publishing the study by Sir Robert Francis QC, which was commissioned by my predecessor as Paymaster General, the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP.

The study makes recommendations for a framework for compensation and redress for the victims of infected blood, which can be ready to implement upon the conclusion of the Infected Blood Inquiry, should the Inquiry's findings and recommendations require it.

Sir Robert's study is comprehensive and detailed, and reflects the contributions of many individuals directly affected by infected blood, their recognised legal

representatives, and campaign groups representing the infected and affected communities, many of whom participated in a series of meetings held by the study from July 2021 to February 2022. Sir Robert makes clear the importance of these contributions by introducing his study with a collection of moving, heartbreaking and sometimes shocking quotations from some of those who spoke to him. It is right that their views and experiences should be at the heart of his work, and I would like once again to thank all those who contributed to the study and shared their experiences with Sir Robert. I do not underestimate how difficult this must have been for many, and I am grateful for their courage.

Sir Robert will give evidence about his work to the Infected Blood Inquiry on 11th and 12th July. Before then, it is important that the Inquiry, and recognised legal representatives of its infected and affected core participants, have an opportunity to consider his work; it is most important that the government is able to reflect upon Sir Robert's evidence to the Inquiry in considering his study.

There is a great deal of complexity to the issues that the study covers and a wide range of factors to be taken into account in considering Sir Robert's recommendations. This analysis cannot be completed hurriedly but officials across government are focussing on this so that the government can be ready to respond quickly to the Inquiry's recommendations, as was intended when the study was commissioned. I will update the House as this work progresses.

I would like, once again, to thank Sir Robert and his team for their work and the timely delivery of the study.

I have asked that a copy of the Study be deposited in the libraries of both Houses in Parliament.

Written Answers

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Blood: Contamination

Asked by *Lord Field of Birkenhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any payments were made to families of those who were infected by contaminated blood since the settlement in 1990, and the opening of the present inquiry into contaminated blood; and if such payments were made, what years they took place; how many payments were made; and what was the total amount paid. [HL414]

Lord Kamall: The information requested on payments made between 1990 and the start of the Infected Blood Inquiry in 2017 is not held centrally.

Since 2017, support for those affected has been provided through four national infected blood support schemes. In England, the England Infected Blood Support Scheme is operated by the NHS Business Services Authority. Prior to the current scheme, support was provided by five independently operated schemes. These provided a range of lump sums, regular payments and smaller one-off payments to meet the immediate needs of individuals infected with hepatitis C or HIV, those who were co-infected and their families.

Buildings: Disability

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to amend the Equalities Act 2010 to make it compulsory for "reasonable adjustments" to be made to the buildings open to the public which have no wheelchair access. [HL396]

Asked by *Lord Blencathra*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they issue to businesses who do not currently have access through their main entrance for wheelchair users, including businesses which suggest access through other entrances and pubs, and restaurants that have access through kitchens; and how this guidance compares with access for persons with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. [HL397]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: A full review of Part M of the Building Regulations is underway, relating to access to, and use of, buildings. It includes a research programme on the prevalence and demographics of impairment in England and ergonomic requirements of wheelchair users and experiences of disabled people. Evidence gathered will help government consider what changes can be made, including updates to statutory guidance. At present however, no change in the Equality Act 2010 of the sort mentioned in my Noble Friend's question is envisaged. For service providers the reasonable adjustment duty in the Act is of course

anticipatory, which means that those who provide services to members of the public are expected to anticipate the reasonable adjustments that disabled customers may require to ensure the disabled person does not experience a substantial disadvantage compared to their non-disabled counterparts.

Coronavirus: Databases

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 20 April (HL7747), whether the "Immunisation and Vaccination Management Capability" includes non-COVID vaccinations such as influenza; what is the legal basis for that capability; and what are the legal bases for the processing by Palantir of (1) individual-level, (2) identifiable, and (3) named, patient data for the "Trust Care Coordination Solution". [HL420]

Lord Kamall: The Immunisation and Vaccination Management Capability includes non-COVID-19 vaccinations, such as influenza and is compliant with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), specifically in the category of "provision of health and social care" and "public interest in the area of public health". The Capability does not process patient-identifiable data.

National Health Service trusts using the Trust Care Co-ordination Solution remain the controllers of patient data and appoint processors such as Palantir to undertake processing tasks at its direction or on its behalf. The Solution directly supports patient care delivered by NHS trusts under the UK GDPR as the processing of "public task/official authority".

Cost of Living

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement from the Head of the International Monetary Fund who said on the 21 May that governments need to subsidise the cost of energy and food for the poorest members of society. [HL447]

Baroness Penn: The government is providing over £37 billion of support in 2022-23 to help people with the cost of living, including an additional £15 billion of new support targeting those with the greatest need. Around three-quarters of the total support will go to vulnerable households.

Millions of the most vulnerable households will receive at least £1,200 of one-off support in total this year to help with the cost of living, including for energy and food.

In the long term, the best approach to managing the cost of living is to help people into work, supporting them to increase their incomes and helping them keep more of what they earn – announcements at the Spring Statement support this.

Diabetes: Drugs and Medical Equipment

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Research to Reality, published in April, what discussions they have had with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) about embedding patient reported outcomes in their (1) methods, and (2) processes, for reviewing (a) medicines, and (b) medical devices. [HL540]

Lord Kamall: The Department participated in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) recent review of its methods and processes for health technology evaluations. Patient-reported outcome measures are embedded throughout NICE's process and methods for reviewing medicines and medical devices.

Finland and Sweden: NATO

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement on 18 May that Turkey will not approve NATO membership for Finland and Sweden unless certain conditions are met, what recent discussions the Prime Minister has had with the President of Turkey. [HL429]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Prime Minister discussed the applications of Finland and Sweden for NATO membership with President Erdoğan on 20 May. The Prime Minister underlined the UK's support for the rapid accession of both countries, who will add to the collective security of the Alliance. He welcomed Turkey's plans to discuss with Sweden and Finland the issues raised by the President, and reiterated the UK's willingness to support the accession process.

Food Banks

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce measures in the current parliament to eliminate the need for food banks. [HL379]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Foodbanks are independent, charitable organisations and the Department for Work and Pensions does not have any role in their operation.

The Government is committed to a sustainable, long-term approach to tackling poverty and supporting people on lower incomes. We will spend over £242bn through the welfare system in 2022/23 including £108bn on people of working age and over £134 billion on pensioners. Of the total amount, around £64 billion will be spent on supporting disabled people and people with health conditions in Great Britain.

We understand the pressures people are facing with the cost of living and have taken action to support and help families worth over £22 billion in 2022-23. The recently

announced package of support worth £15 billion to help households with rising energy bills, brings total government support to £37 billion.

Government is also providing an additional £500 million from October to help households with the cost of essentials, bringing the total funding for this support to £1.5 billion. In England, £421m will be used to extend the Household Support Fund (October 2022 – March 2023). At least a third of the extension funding (£140m) will be spent on pensioners and at least another third (£140m) will be spent on families with children.

Freezing of Assets: Libya

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the article 'Libya's Central Bank says no assets have been frozen in Britain', published in the Libya Observer on 22 May, what assessment they have made of the accuracy of the statement made by the management of the Central Bank of Libya that no Libyan assets have been frozen in Britain. [HL483]

Baroness Penn: The Central Bank of Libya is not designated for financial sanctions by the UN or UK. There are therefore no frozen assets in the UK belonging to Central Bank of Libya.

Freezing of Assets: Russia

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated value of Russian assets frozen to date; what further consideration are they giving to other assets that should be subjected to freezing orders; and what is the estimated value of those assets. [HL468]

Baroness Penn: Relevant firms are legally obliged to report to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) if they hold frozen assets of a designated person or entity they suspect to be on the list of asset freeze targets. OFSI is currently receiving a high volume of reporting about assets being frozen relating to sanctions imposed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This information is being collated and assured. Fuller details will be released in due course and will mark a substantial increase on previous assets reported as frozen under Russia sanctions.

With our international allies, we have introduced the largest and most severe economic sanctions that Russia has ever faced. These coordinated sanctions will continue to go deeper, broader and sharper, with a focus on those that can have the biggest impact.

General Practitioners: Equality

Asked by *Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have had with the devolved administrations to secure equal GP provision across the UK. [HL495]

Lord Kamall: Departmental officials have regular discussions with the devolved administrations to share best practice and information related to general practitioner provision in the United Kingdom.

Health Services: Travellers

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the recommendations of the report by Leeds GATE, the University of Dundee and the University of York Enhancing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Peoples' Trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream provision, published on 14 September 2018. [HL113]

Lord Kamall: This report informed inclusion health guidance, which includes Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. However, its recommendations were not intended for implementation. The report was funded through the National Institute for Health and Care Research's Policy Research Programme in June 2015 to support national policy development in health, care and public health systems.

Subsequent policy development in this area includes the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities' Inclusion Health: applying All Our Health online resource. This provides guidance for health and care professionals to prevent ill-health and promote wellbeing for people in inclusion health groups in everyday practice, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. The guidance reiterates many of the recommendations in the Leeds GATE report, such as providing flexible services, supporting registration with a general practitioner and increasing collaborative working. It also includes ensuring individuals can access services through outreach activities in the community.

House of Lords: Staff

Asked by Lord Blunkett

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how many people (1) are directly employed in the House of Lords, (2) are employed by the House of Lords and do not get paid when their senior line manager is not on site, and (3) are employed in the House of Lords and work from home for either (a) part of, or (b) the whole of, the working week. [HL520]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: As of 6 June 2022 the House of Lords Administration directly employs 670 individuals. The pay of employees of the House of Lords Administration is not dependent on, nor linked to, the location of their senior line manager.

The House of Lords Administration has a Flexible Working policy which supports individuals to work from home. Some Member-facing services, such as Chamber facing work, Catering & Retail Services and Facilities, work predominantly on-site whilst other offices operate

local arrangements whilst ensuring they meet business needs. The House of Lords Human Resources Department does not hold data on how many people employed by the House of Lords work from home for part of the working week. No employee of the House of Lords Administration is contracted to work from home for the whole of the working week.

Immunosuppression: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Kamall on 18 May (HL158 and HL159) and 20 May (HL160), what steps they are taking to improve the data they need to ensure that they can (1) make informed decisions regarding policies to protect the immunocompromised, and (2) deliver treatments where needed. [HL500]

Lord Kamall: NHS Digital is working with data sources in primary and secondary care to improve the access to relevant data which identifies those who are immunocompromised and build a technical platform to identify such patients for different interventions, such as treatments and vaccines. The Department has also established the Therapeutics Clinical Review Panel which studies high risk patient cohorts which could be eligible for COVID-19 therapies. The panel will provide advice to the United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers on eligibility for treatments. In addition, the National Institute for Health and Care Research is commissioning a rapid study on those who remain vulnerable to poor outcomes from COVID-19 despite vaccination.

Infectious Diseases: Medical Treatments

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether clinical guidelines have been produced about the prescription of longer courses of anti-virals for refractory infections in immunocompromised individuals; if not, what assessment they have made of the impact of a lack of guidelines on doctors' ability to issue appropriate prescriptions; and what assessment they have made of the impact of the COVID-19 Medicines Delivery Unit's decision-making processes on treatment access for patients with immunodeficiency. [HL499]

Lord Kamall: Clinical access policies for the routinely available COVID-19 treatments in the National Health Service apply to treatment decisions being made by clinicians working with COVID Medicine Delivery Units in England. These decisions typically reflect the use within a medicine's marketing authorisation, including the dose and duration of treatment to be provided, although there are mechanisms which allow the consideration of off-label use. The RAPID C-19 collaboration, led by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, monitors any emerging evidence from clinical trials which informs these clinical access decisions.

The clinical access policy states that the antivirals molnupiravir and nirmatrelvir+ritonavir should be taken for five days. Any treatment duration beyond the marketing authorisation is not included in this policy unless it is supported by evidence on the benefit and safety in clinical trials. No specific assessment of the impact of prescription guidelines and the COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Units' decision-making process has been made.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that the government of Israel plans to expel over 1,000 Palestinians from their villages in Masafer Yatta. [HL421]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. Our opposition to the demolition of Palestinian property and the evictions of Palestinians from their homes is long-standing. We call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of Israeli forces using a girl as a human shield, and then bombing her home in Jenin, on 13 May. [HL453]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the need to protect children. We also regularly raise the importance of the Israeli security force's adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality when defending its legitimate security interest.

Judiciary: Hong Kong

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 31 March (HL7587), which (1) retired judges who served in courts in England or Wales, or (2) British citizens, continue to serve as judges in Hong Kong's judicial system, if any. [HL460]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: There are six retired UK judges who on 31 March, issued a statement confirming

their continued participation as Non-Permanent Members on the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

- Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers.
- Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury.
- Lord Sumption.
- Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe.
- Lord Collins of Mapesbury.
- Lord Hoffmann.

Legal Aid Scheme: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce an immediate 25 per cent increase in legal aid fees. [HL510]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Government is consulting on a package of proposals which includes a 15% uplift on fees across most legal aid fee schemes. This, alongside the longer-term reforms we propose, will increase spend by up to £135m a year - taking expected criminal legal aid spend to £1.2 billion per year.

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve maternity (1) curriculums, and (2) guidance, in order to better assess women and babies from (a) black, and (b) ethnic minority, communities. [HL458]

Lord Kamall: Health Education England (HEE) is working with NHS England to review and update the existing 'Cultural Competence' e-learning resources to support clinicians to understand culture and health and how it may influence healthcare outcomes. HEE is hosting a meeting on maternity education and training in July 2022, which will focus on the education and training implications of the Ockenden report. This will include course content and curriculum, career development and transition to work.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) considers the need to reduce health inequalities in developing its evidence-based guideline recommendations. Where there is evidence of differences in symptoms, diagnosis, or treatment for different population groups, NICE seeks to ensure that this is addressed in its guidelines.

Mohammad Ghassan Ahmad Mansour

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel concerning reports of the imprisonment, without charge or trial, of Mohammad Ghassan Ahmad Mansour. [HL454]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention and raise this with the Israeli Ministry of Justice. We call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law and either charge or release detainees.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: Standards

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 17 May (HL147), how the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) appraisals of (1) Sacituzumab govitecan (Trodelvy), and (2) Tucatinib (Tukysa) with trastuzumab and capecitabine, were included in the statistic cited as 100 per cent of guidance of new medicines being issued within three months of a licence in 2021/22, where NICE proceeded to appraisal. [HL539]

Lord Kamall: The appraisal of sacituzumab govitecan is not included in this statistic as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has not yet issued its final guidance. The appraisal of tucatinib is not recorded by the timeliness metric for 2021/22 as NICE's final guidance was issued in the 2022/23 business year.

NICE issued final guidance within 90 days of licensing for 100% of published appraisals of new active substances where timelines were within NICE's control. Topics outside of this timeframe were impacted by external factors such as where a company requested a delay to NICE's evaluation.

Northern Ireland Protocol

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what technical meetings have taken place with the European Commission on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland; how many such meetings have taken place; and when each of these meetings took place. [HL322]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary, as UK Co-chair of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee, and her predecessor Lord Frost met their EU counterpart, Vice President Maroš Šefčovič on 26 occasions since September 2021 to discuss the Northern Ireland Protocol. This also includes one meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on 21 February 2022. These discussions were supported by approximately 300 hours of negotiations over 6 months by UK and EU officials, covering sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS), customs, VAT and excise, goods, subsidy control, medicines, and governance.

Parliament: Non-binary People

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker when was the category of "non-binary" added to the search function on the Parliamentary website for Members of the House of Lords; and why that category is listed given there are no current non-binary members of the House. [HL571]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: The category of "non-binary" was added to the search function on the Parliamentary website in December 2019. The request arose from analysis of candidates standing for election to the House of Commons in the General Election of that month, and then agreed on a bicameral basis. The addition of a non-binary option to the underlying bicameral Members database meant that the option became available as a search option on the webpages of both Houses.

Pension Wise: Standards

Asked by Baroness Altmann

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the customer satisfaction ratings for the PensionWise service for each year since the service began; and what are the figures for the past four quarters. [HL390]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The below data on customer satisfaction is collected post-appointment.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Customer Satisfaction</i>
2016/17	94%
2017/18	92%
2018/19	93%
2019/20	94%

Prior to the formation of the Money and Pensions Service (MaPS) in 2019, satisfaction data was taken from the Pension Wise annual service evaluation and was not published quarterly. During this time The Money Advice Service, The Pensions Advisory Service, and Pension Wise had in place their own Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), along with different approaches to measuring performance. MaPS wanted to have a single programme measuring performance of their three service areas in a more consistent and joined up way. During 2020/21, there was no Pension Wise evaluation because MaPS were setting in place a new evaluation programme to achieve this.

Satisfaction data from 2021/22 is published quarterly by financial year on the MoneyHelper pensions take up dashboard. Pension Wise satisfaction scores for telephone appointments are provided quarterly by calendar year below – Q4 data is not yet available.

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Customer Satisfaction</i>
2021/22 Q1	93.20%
2021/22 Q2	93.90%
2021/22 Q3	93.50%

Pension Wise: Telephone Services

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people had appointments with the PensionWise helpline in each calendar quarter in (1) 2018, (2) 2019, (3) 2020, (4) 2021, and (5) 2022. [HL389]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The information requested is available on the MoneyHelper pension take up data dashboard, where it is published quarterly by financial year. It is provided quarterly by calendar year below:

Calendar Year	QUARTER	Telephone Appts Attended	Face to Face Appts Attended	TOTAL
2018	Q2*	6,087	15,717	21,804
2018	Q3	7,035	17,085	24,120
2018	Q4	7,955	17,791	25,746
2019	Q1	9,432	20,641	30,073
2019	Q2	11,344	21,038	32,382
2019	Q3	13,051	21,363	34,414
2019	Q4	12,385	17,437	29,822
2020	Q1	13,477	21,581	35,058
2020	Q2	23,821	0	23,821
2020	Q3	27,363	0	27,363
2020	Q4	27,058	1	27,059
2021	Q1	34,783	1	34,784
2021	Q2	32,727	0	32,727
2021	Q3	29,061	0	29,061
2021	Q4	21,270	0	21,270
2022	Q1	31,620	0	31,620

*Q1 data from 2018 is not available

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people (1) have booked, or (2) had appointments, in each calendar quarter of (a) 2021, and (b) 2022, with (i) the MoneyHelper Pension helpline, (ii) the PensionWise/MoneyHelper Pensions on divorce helpline, (iii) the PensionWise/MoneyHelper Pension safeguarding helpline, and (iv) the PensionWise/MoneyHelper mid-life pension helpline. [HL391]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The information requested is available on the MoneyHelper pension take up data dashboard, where it is published quarterly by financial year. It is provided quarterly by calendar year below:

2021	MoneyHelper Pensions Helpline*	MoneyHelper Pensions Virtual appointments**	Pension Wise attended	Pension Wise appointments arranged
Q1	71,522	125	34,784	45,376
Q2	56,089	93	32,727	45,221
Q3	39,166	113	29,061	38,344
Q4	36,465	107	21,270	27,620
2021 Total	203,242	438	117,842	156,561

*The Pensions Helpline is a general pensions guidance service that anyone can contact with any pensions query – this service does not require appointments booked and is delivered across multiple channels. As such, this data includes the following:

- Helpline calls.
- Webchat.
- Online enquiries.
- Attendance at outreach events.

**MoneyHelper Pensions virtual appointments cover Divorce appointments, Mid-Life Pensions Review appointments for the self-employed, and Pension Loss appointments. Data on Pensions Safeguarding appointments has not yet been published.

2022	MoneyHelper Pension helpline*	MoneyHelper Pensions Virtual appointments**	Pension Wise attended	Pension Wise appointments arranged
Q1	52,779	93	31,620	41,624

*The Pensions Helpline is a general pensions guidance service that anyone can contact with any pensions query – this service does not require appointments booked and is delivered across multiple channels. As such, this data includes the following:

- Helpline calls.
- Webchat.
- Online enquiries.
- Attendance at outreach events.

**MoneyHelper Pensions virtual appointments cover Divorce appointments, Mid-Life Pensions Review appointments for the self-employed, and Pension Loss appointments. Data on Pensions Safeguarding appointments has not yet been published.

Pensions

Asked by **Baroness Altmann**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data is (1) collected, and (2) published, relating to trust-based pension (a) Defined Contribution schemes, or (b) MasterTrust schemes, in any year since 2015, to show

how many people have accessed their pension funds; and whether they purchased an (i) annuity, (ii) income drawdown, (iii) uncrystallised pension fund lump sum, or (iv) withdrew funds in full. [HL393]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) publish data on their website, based on what is reported to them, on the number of flexible payments made from pensions, the number of individuals who have received these flexible payments and the total value of all flexible payments. As this includes all flexible pension payments, the data represents a proportion of payments made from trust-based Defined Contribution (DC) schemes as well as contract-based schemes. As of December 2021, 1.9 million individuals have taken 16.0 million flexible payments from their DC pensions since the introduction of Pension Freedoms in 2015.

The Pensions Regulator (TPR) publishes data on their website from trust-based DC schemes on an annual basis. This publication provides a high-level snapshot of the current landscape of occupational DC trust-based pension provision in the UK, including information on the number, memberships, and assets of schemes. The most recent publication is TPR's 12th edition, DC Trust: scheme return data 2021 to 2022, which includes data captured since 2015.

Included in this, they report the number of members for whom each scheme is directly providing (self-annuitisation) or facilitating (lifetime annuities) annuity payments. At the end of 2021, there were 1,000 memberships receiving lifetime annuities, excluding hybrid schemes (which have a mixture of guarantees and investments), and less than 1000 memberships receiving self-annuitisations, also excluding hybrid schemes. Number of memberships, or number of pension pots, does not equate to number of individuals, as many people are members of more than one pension scheme.

The data in this publication from TPR does not capture all pensioner members, as some members will have retired but transferred out of their scheme.

Members who transfer out of a trust-based DC scheme and access their pension savings via a contract-based provider will be included in the data collected by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and published in their Retirement Income Market Data. However, data is not currently collected on volumes of members that transfer out of trust-based DC schemes with the intention of accessing their savings. The FCA data shows that from October 2015- March 2021, over 3.3 million DC pots have been accessed in the contract-based market. This data is presented in Table 1 and can be found on the FCA webpage: Retirement income market data 2020/21. This data is also provided broken down by year in Annex A.

Table 1: Volumes and proportion of retirement income products, October 2015- March 2021 (FCA Retirement Income Data)

Product	Total volume	Proportion of all pots accessed
Annuities purchased in period	390,697	12%

Product	Total volume	Proportion of all pots accessed
New drawdown policies entered and not fully withdrawn in period	993,033	30%
Pots where first partial UFPLS payment taken and not fully withdrawn in period	130,247	4%
Full cash withdrawals from pots being accessed for first time in period	1,831,982	55%
Total pots accessed for the first time	3,345,960	100%

*Volumes prior to April 2018 were drawn from a representative sample of firms. The FCA started collecting data from all regulated firms providing retirement income products from 1 April 2018.

Powers of Attorney

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prevent people from taking advantage of vulnerable people by obtaining Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs). [HL457]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Lasting powers of attorney (LPA) offer vital protections where someone lacks the mental capacity to make their own decisions. My department recently consulted on how to increase safeguards for vulnerable people during their creation and this is set out in the Government response which was published on 19 May 2022. Copies are available in the House Library.

Proposals include the introduction of identification checks to deter fraud and improvements to the witnessing and objection processes to protect donors against abuse and undue pressure.

Shireen Abu Aqleh

Asked by *Baroness Janke*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the presence of armed Israeli forces at St Joseph's hospital on 13 May, (2) the actions of the Israeli forces towards attendees of the funeral of Shireen Abu Aqleh, and (3) the confiscation of Palestinian flags by Israeli forces at the funeral. [HL422]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During a call with the Israeli Ambassador on 19 May, Minister Milling made clear the UK's sadness at the recent death of Shireen Abu Aqleh and the deeply disturbing scenes at her funeral in Jerusalem. She urged a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the events. The UK Ambassador to Israel has reiterated the importance of an

investigation with the Israeli authorities. We call for urgent steps to de-escalate tensions and for restraint in the use of force. The safety of journalists across the globe is vital and they must be protected when carrying out their critical work.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by Catholic leaders on 16 May regarding the actions of the Israeli police at St Joseph Hospital during Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral, what representations they have made to the government of Israel, including to Prime Minister Naftali Bennet on this matter. [HL431]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During a call with the Israeli Ambassador on 19 May, Minister Milling made clear the UK's sadness at the recent death of Shireen Abu Aqleh and the deeply disturbing scenes at her funeral in Jerusalem. She urged a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the events. The UK Ambassador to Israel has reiterated the importance of an investigation with the Israeli authorities. We call for urgent steps to de-escalate tensions and for restraint in the use of force. The safety of journalists across the globe is vital and they must be protected when carrying out their critical work.

Social Security Benefits

*Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a quarterly welfare assessment for those in receipt of benefits. [HL455]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: There are no plans to introduce a quarterly welfare assessment for those in receipt of benefits.

State Retirement Pensions

*Asked by **Baroness McIntosh of Pickering***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to reviewing the rate of inflation figure used for state pensions. [HL433]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department for Work and Pensions is required by law to undertake an annual review of benefits and pensions. CPI in the year to September is the latest figure that the Department for Work and Pensions can use to allow sufficient time for the required operational changes before new rates can be introduced at the start of the new financial year.

All benefit up-rating since April 1987 has been based on the increase in the relevant price inflation index in the 12 months to the previous September.

The Department for Work and Pensions decisions regarding benefits/pensions for 2022/23 were announced to Parliament on 25 November 2021 and the increase of 3.1 per cent from April 2022 was agreed by both Houses of Parliament.

UK Trade with EU: Agricultural Products

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government when negotiations will resume with the European Commission regarding Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Veterinary Arrangements and the Customs Code as part of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. [HL321]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We have engaged in negotiations with the European Union in good faith. After almost two years of negotiations, we are asking the Commission to go back to Member States for a new mandate, that would provide the flexibility to fix the current issues facing the people of Northern Ireland.

Our preference is for a negotiated outcome - but we cannot wait to fix the issues facing the people of Northern Ireland. We will take steps to stabilise the situation in Northern Ireland and bring parity to everyone living in the UK, but we remain open to further talks if we can fix the issues with the Protocol through a negotiated settlement. Meanwhile, the legislation we will bring forward will fix the domestic impact of the Protocol, stabilise the situation in Northern Ireland and form an executive - protecting the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement - without undermining the integrity of either the EU or the UK's single market.

United Arab Emirates: Politics and Government

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Prime Minister has held talks with the new president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan; and if so, what issues were discussed. [HL432]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Prime Minister visited Abu Dhabi on 15 May to pay respects following the death of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and to offer his condolences to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the people of the United Arab Emirates. The Prime Minister also congratulated His Highness on his appointment as President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the UK and the United Arab Emirates.

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