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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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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

Monday, 13 June 2022

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme: Launch of Pathways 2 and 3

[HLWS89]

Lord Harrington of Watford: I am pleased to announce to the House today the opening of the two remaining referral pathways to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Last August, as the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated rapidly, this Government worked at great speed to evacuate more than 15,000 people from Afghanistan within a fortnight. This was the biggest mission of its kind in generations and the second largest evacuation carried out by any country and we are rightly proud of what we achieved.

The evacuation included British nationals and their families, Afghans who had loyally served the UK, and other vulnerable people. Since the events of last August, we have continued to support those at risk with over 4,000 more people being brought to safety.

In January 2022, the then Minister for Afghan Resettlement announced the launch of a new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which will resettle up to 20,000 eligible people over the coming years. This is in addition to those who have been relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

There is no application process for the Scheme, instead eligible individuals will be referred for resettlement via three referral 'pathways'.

The first of these referral pathways offers a place on the ACRS for some of the individuals and families who were brought to safety in the UK under Op PITTING. We will honour our commitments to eligible people who were called forward or specifically authorised for evacuation, but who were unable to board flights.

Today, I am pleased to announce the opening of the two remaining referral pathways onto the ACRS.

Firstly, under pathway 2, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer for resettlement to the UK, refugees who have fled Afghanistan. UNHCR has the global mandate to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees. We are pleased to announce that we are now ready to begin receiving referrals. We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway, although this number will be kept under review. We will continue to receive UNHCR referrals to the scheme in coming years.

Under pathway 3, we committed to considering eligible at-risk British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) will refer up to 1,500

people from Afghanistan and the region to the Home Office for resettlement, including any eligible family members. The FCDO will launch an online system on Monday 20 June, where eligible individuals will be able to express interest in UK resettlement. Expressions of interest will be considered in the order they are received, although some groups will be prioritised because the role they performed or the project they worked on mean they are particularly at risk, or because there are exceptionally compelling circumstances. Expressions of interest will be accepted until Monday 15 August 2022, when the online system will close. Guidance on the expression of interest process is available on gov.uk [from Monday 13 June].

Any offer of resettlement under the ACRS will be contingent on security screening, including checks against security and other databases, and provision of biometric information. In the interests of public safety, it is right that individuals who are found to have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, terrorism or other serious crimes will not be eligible for resettlement.

Whilst we recognise the plight of many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region, the capacity of the UK to resettle people under this scheme is not unlimited and difficult decisions have had to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement. Nevertheless, we will continue to be committed to supporting the people of Afghanistan and after the first year of the third referral pathway, we will continue to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

Resettlement is just one element of the UK Government's response to the situation in Afghanistan, in addition to our diplomatic efforts and international aid in the region, working alongside like-minded states and as part of the international community.

Through the ACRS, the United Kingdom continues to offer safe and legal routes to those in need of protection. The scheme provides another demonstration of our New Plan for Immigration in action.

We are proud to provide those affected by events in Afghanistan with a route to safety and look forward to warmly welcoming individuals and families into our communities across the UK.

Disability Update

[HLWS93]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: My honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work (Chloe Smith MP) has made the following Written Statement:

The aim of this government, as set out in our manifesto commitment, is to transform the everyday lives of disabled people across the country.

We are also working towards equality on the global stage, through both the example we set here in the UK and our international cooperation. On the 13th of June, as the UK Minister for Disabled People, I will travel to the

15th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP15). Participating in bilateral meetings and wider debates, I will meet my global counterparts with the aim of strengthening the international political commitment for the rights of disabled people.

Our ambition is clear: to deliver long term change through practical actions and wide-ranging policies across government which enable disabled people to live full and independent lives.

We are delivering on this ambition. We have seen 1.3 million more disabled people in work than in 2017 – delivering a government commitment five years early. And since 2013, the general trend in disability employment has been positive, with strong growth in the number and rate of disabled people in employment and a narrowing of the disability employment gap. Over the next three years, this government will invest £1.3bn in employment support for disabled people and people with health conditions. We have supported the introduction of the British Sign Language Act and the Down Syndrome Act in the last parliament, and we will be publishing our Health and Disability white paper later this year which will set out more important work.

In July 2021 we published the National Disability Strategy (the “Strategy”), which set out our ambition to improve the lives of millions of disabled people. It was a turning point in government commitment to coordinate disability policy, setting out in a high-level framework document over 100 cross-government initiatives driving change in all parts of society.

However, in January 2022, the High Court declared the Strategy was unlawful because the UK Disability Survey, which informed it, was held to be a voluntary consultation that failed to comply with the legal requirements on public consultations. We strongly disagree with this finding and are disappointed that the declaration prevents us from taking forward some of our important work. The DWP Secretary of State has therefore sought permission to appeal this decision from the Court of Appeal.

Whilst awaiting a decision on permission to appeal from the Court of Appeal, we are required to take steps to comply with the Court’s declaration. The Secretary of State wants to minimise the risk of acting inconsistently with the Court’s declaration, without compromising on the ambitious agenda we are delivering for disabled people. As such, we are pausing a limited number of policies which are referred to in the strategy or are directly connected with it.

We remain committed to improving opportunities and outcomes for disabled people as we await the outcome of the appeal.

Our intent remains to create more opportunities for disabled people to participate and thrive; to protect and promote the rights of disabled people; and to tackle the barriers that prevent disabled people from fully benefiting from, and contributing to every aspect of our society. Ensuring the voice of disabled people is properly heard

remains a priority for government. We wish to continue to engage closely with disabled people and disabled people’s organisations.

We are committed to disability policy that supports all areas of life and taking action to create a society that works for everyone.

Draft Data Strategy

[HLWS95]

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

I would like to inform the House that the final version of *Data saves lives: reshaping health and social care with data* has been published today. It builds on the ground-breaking use of data during the pandemic and sets out ambitious plans to harness the potential of data in health and care, while maintaining the highest standards of privacy and ethics.

When facing this country’s greatest public health emergency for generations, one of the most effective tools at our disposal has been the power of data. Now, as we look to live with Covid, we must apply those same tools as we tackle the most pressing challenges facing the country including elective recovery and integration of health and social care.

Earlier this year, I made a speech setting out my four priorities for reform in health; prevention, personalisation, performance and people. We cannot deliver the change we need to see, and our 10 year plans for cancer, dementia and mental health, unless we embrace the opportunities from data-driven technologies. Last week, Sir Gordon Messenger and Dame Linda Pollard published their review into leadership of health and social care, and I accepted their recommendations in full. Today’s data strategy is the next step in our plans to modernise the NHS.

This strategy shows how we will use data to bring benefits to all parts of health and social care; from patients and care users, to staff on the front line, to the pioneers driving the most cutting-edge research. It is backed by a series of concrete commitments, including investing in secure data environments to power research into new treatments, using technology to allow staff to spend more quality time with patients, and giving people better access to their own data through shared care records and the NHS App. The strategy will support NHS providers to tackle the Covid backlog, providing them with the means to monitor and optimise capacity through improved data sharing and the development of advanced analytics. This is all on top of the huge investment that we have already made, for instance investing £200 million in our Data for Research and Development programme.

It is vital that, as we deliver these benefits, we work in a way that maintains the high level of public trust in how the NHS uses health and care data. That means maintaining the highest standards of privacy and ethics, investing in secure data environments and cyber security,

involving the public in decisions about how data is used in the future, listening and responding to their views and concerns.

We published a draft of this strategy in June 2021 and I would like to thank the hundreds of people and organisations who provided feedback which was invaluable in shaping this final version of our strategy for the future.

I would also like to thank Dr Ben Goldacre for his work on the Goldacre Report, which was published in April, and made a compelling case for how data can drive innovation and improve healthcare. I fully support his recommendations and this strategy shows how we will take them forward.

I will deposit a copy of the draft strategy in both Libraries.

Government Food Strategy

[HLWS90]

Lord Benyon: My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (George Eustice) has made the following Statement:

Today I have published the government's first ever food strategy, outlining our plan to transform our food system to ensure it is fit for the future.

The government food strategy follows the independent review of the food system led by Henry Dimbleby last year, which set out an analysis of the challenges facing the food system. The food strategy takes on several of the independent review's recommendations, and I would like to thank Henry Dimbleby and his team for their work examining our food system and the vital role it plays in all our lives.

Food security sits at the heart of this government's vision for the food system – boosting food production, job creation and the wider economy with a focus on skills and innovation, to level up across the country.

We want to create a sustainable food system, from farm to fork and catch to plate, seizing on the opportunities before us and ensuring that everyone has access to nutritious and healthier food.

To do this, our objectives for this strategy are:

- A prosperous agri-food and seafood sector that ensures a secure food supply in an unpredictable world and contributes to the levelling up agenda through good quality jobs around the country.
- A sustainable, nature positive, affordable food system that provides choice and access to high quality products that support healthier and home-grown diets for all.
- Trade that provides export opportunities and consumer choice through imports, without compromising our regulatory standards for food, whether produced domestically or imported.

This strategy builds on work that is already underway across government. Significantly, it confirms that we will:

- support farmers to broadly maintain levels of domestic production through productivity gain and our new farming schemes;
- support our farmers through our new farming schemes and innovation programmes and boosting production in key sectors, including horticulture and seafood;
- release the additional provision of 10,000 visas under the seasonal worker visa route, including 2,000 for the poultry sector;
- work with industry to support the upcoming Migration Advisory Committee review of the Shortage Occupation List, and commission an independent review to ensure the quantity and quality of the food sector workforce;
- work with the food and drink industry to review existing skills programmes, identify improvements, and tackle barriers that currently prevent uptake, helping to drive up completion of skills training, pay and productivity in all areas of the UK to support levelling up;
- publish a land use framework in 2023 to ensure we meet our net zero and biodiversity targets, and help our farmers adapt to a changing climate;
- launch a Food Data Transparency Partnership, bringing together government, industry and civil society to drive a real transformation in health, animal welfare and environmental outcomes through our food;
- consult on Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services (GBSF), including whether to widen the scope of GBSF mandatory organisations to cover the whole public sector and introducing an aspirational target that at least 50% of food spend must be on food produced locally or certified to higher environmental production standards, while maintaining value for money for taxpayers; and
- harness the benefits of new Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) made possible following Brexit, whilst maintaining our world-leading domestic standards, by using a range of levers within our bespoke trade agreements.

The levers influencing the food system are dispersed. We will work collaboratively across UK government departments, as well as closely with the devolved administrations, industry and civil society to achieve our ambitions. We will report on our progress against the food strategy goals alongside the next UK Food Security report.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Appointment to UK Delegation

[HLWS96]

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement:

Lord Wharton of Yarm has been appointed as a substitute member of the United Kingdom Delegation to

the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in place of Baroness Foster of Oxtou.

Qualified Teacher Status in England: Overseas Teachers

[HLWS92]

Baroness Barran: My Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for School Standards (Mr Robin Walker), has made the following statement:

In early 2023, the Department for Education (DfE) will change the way teachers who qualified overseas can have their teaching qualifications recognised. The new Apply for Qualified Teacher Status in England service will mean those with high-quality teaching qualifications can come to work in England, wherever they are from. This will include teachers from Ukraine.

Current legislation means that teachers from some countries can get qualified teacher status (QTS) through a simple process, but for others it is more difficult, even if they are equally well-qualified. We are committed to ensuring the best teachers from around the world can come to teach in England and that there is consistency and fairness for all suitable applicants, regardless of where they are from. Apply for Qualified Teacher Status in England will award teachers QTS based on an assessment of their qualifications and experience against set criteria.

Further details of our proposed criteria and the new service can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualified-teacher-status-to-overseas-teachers/a-fairer-approach-to-awarding-qts-to-overseas-teachers>.

We are continuing our engagement with the sector so that they have time to understand and prepare for these changes ahead of their introduction in 2023. We will lay the necessary regulations in the Autumn.

Student Loan Interest Rates Reduction

[HLWS91]

Baroness Barran: My Right Honourable Friend the Minister of State for Higher and Further Education (Michelle Donelan) has made the following statement:

I am announcing today a temporary reduction in student loan interest rates to come into effect 1 September 2022. This unprecedented action brings student loan interest rates in line with the forecast prevailing market rates for comparable unsecured personal loans.

In accordance with the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998, where the Government considers that the student loan interest rate is higher than the prevailing market rate for comparable unsecured loans, we will take steps to bring student loan interest rates in line with the prevailing market rate.

The Government regularly monitors the interest rates set on student loans against the interest rates prevailing on the market for comparable loans.

Student loans are set with reference to the RPI for the month of March prior to the start of the academic year, as published by the ONS. Following a significant increase in RPI in March 2022, I am announcing today [13/06/2022] a cap to the Post-2012 income contingent repayment undergraduate and the Postgraduate income contingent repayment student loan interest rate in line with the forecast prevailing market rate for the 22/23 academic year. Subject to the will of Parliament, the cap will come into effect from 1 September 2022 and last for a period of twelve months.

The Post-2012 undergraduate income contingent repayment student loan interest rate and the Postgraduate income contingent repayment student loan interest rate will be 7.3% between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.

This intervention by ministers means that in September 2022 Post-2012 undergraduate student loan borrowers and Postgraduate student loan borrowers face a maximum interest rate of 7.3% rather than 12%. This is the largest reduction of its kind on record.

No borrower will be paying more per month as a result of this change. Monthly student loan repayments are calculated as a fixed percentage of earnings above the relevant repayment threshold and do not change based on interest rates or the amount borrowed.

Subject to continued monitoring of the prevailing market rate, from 1 September 2023, the Post-2012 undergraduate income contingent repayment student loan interest rates will revert to variable rates of standard rate to standard rate +3% and Postgraduate income contingent repayment student loan interest rates will revert to the standard rate +3%.

Should the confirmed prevailing market rate turn out lower than forecast, a further cap will be implemented to reduce the Plan 2 and the Postgraduate loan interest rates accordingly.

Further caps may be put in place should the prevailing market rate continue to be below student loan interest rates.

UK Digital Strategy

[HLWS94]

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 Tech and Digital Economy, Chris Philp MP:

I am pleased to have published today the [UK's Digital Strategy](#), a wide reaching and inclusive statement of the Government's vision for the future of the UK's digital economy. The Digital Strategy harnesses our strengths in knowledge and R&D intensive industries to further our position as a global Science and Technology Superpower, and support the UK's future prosperity and security.

This is a cross-Government strategy which aims to bring cohesion to the various important digital policies being driven by different parts of Government. Bringing

these initiatives together in one place enables us to take the Government's vision of the digital economy and turn it into reality by exploring new technological frontiers and delivering tech innovation on a scale the country has not previously seen.

This Government champions the UK as a global hub for digital talent and growth. Data suggests that, last year, a new UK unicorn was created every eleven and a half days, with £27.4 billion of private capital flowing into UK tech in 2021. That is more than any other European country. We are committed to continuing to support our fantastic venture capital investment initiatives such as the Enterprise Investment Scheme and the Seed Investment Scheme to ensure that UK companies continue to grow and raise capital to scale up.

The UK is presented with an important opportunity to draw upon our position as a world leader in emerging fields such as AI, advanced semiconductor design, and quantum computing to become a force for digital good on the global stage. The Digital Strategy makes clear our intention to work toward a global consensus with like-minded partners and allies to shape a system of digital standards and trade that enables UK businesses to innovate and thrive. We have the opportunity to build on our status as a science and technology superpower, to take advantage of our regulatory freedom, and to champion the dynamic businesses and start-ups that have helped make Britain a focal point for digital skills and innovation.

As well as championing the UK as a global digital hub, the Government also recognises the power of digital technology to transform our own economy, boost jobs, and help level up regions across the UK. Britain's digital might has given us the flexibility to adapt to unprecedented challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be vital in our fight against climate change. Indeed, the UK's economic future, our security, our standard of living, and our place in the world are all reliant on our continued success in digital technology. We can take steps now to future-proof our economy, to invest in developing world-class expertise, to build our evidence base, to boost innovation, to grow employment opportunities across the UK, and to strengthen transnational ties.

The future of our economy, of UK jobs, of every region of the country, is digital. Over 80% of all jobs advertised require digital skills, and the rate of tech Gross Value Added has grown on average by 7% per year since 2016. It is vital that we equip businesses and citizens with the skills and tools they need to navigate this rapid change. That means not only rolling out world-class digital infrastructure across the UK, but also ensuring that the benefits of the digital economy are felt by all members of society.

A copy of the UK Digital Strategy will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Answers

Monday, 13 June 2022

Afghanistan: Children

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, together with international partners, to tackle acute child malnutrition across the world, and particularly in Afghanistan; and what assessment they have made of the UNICEF report Child Alert: Severe Wasting, published in May, which said that "a record 1.1 million children in Afghanistan are projected to need life-saving treatment for severe wasting this year, nearly double the number in 2018". [HL591]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to be deeply concerned over the high levels of global acute child malnutrition, with over 60 million children expected to experience wasting in 2022. As highlighted in the recent UNICEF Child Alert, the UK has been at the forefront of tackling this devastating condition which not only takes lives but also leaves children with lifelong disabilities. The UK has historically been the largest funder for treatment of child wasting, providing roughly one quarter of all financing for wasting. In September 2020 the FCDO launched a 5-year partnership with UNICEF to drive improvements to the prevention and treatment of child wasting.

Levels of acute malnutrition in Afghanistan are particularly concerning, with 1.1 million children expected to require life-saving treatment for severe wasting this year. In response the UK has pledged a further £286 million for Afghanistan, the majority of which will go towards life-saving humanitarian assistance. A priority focus is emergency food assistance and nutrition services through key partners, including UNICEF and the World Food Programme. This support is expected to reach over 4 million people with a focus on vulnerable women and children.

Agriculture: Tax Allowances

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce tax incentives for farmers that redistribute food. [HL507]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This Government has taken significant steps to boost the redistribution of food. Since 2017 Defra has awarded £12m in grants to the redistribution sector, including to access food surplus from farms. This has provided important infrastructure such as warehousing, vehicles, fridges and freezers to support the sector for years to come. Since UK-level data was first reported in 2015, overall levels of redistribution have increased three-fold.

We have no specific plans to introduce tax incentives at present.

Assistance Animals: UK Relations with EU

Asked by *Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to negotiate, under the UK–EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the removal of the bureaucratic barriers and costs facing the owners of guide dogs and other assistance dogs entering the EU, including the expense of animal health certificates and other measures imposed following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL577]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK has been formally 'listed' as a 'Part 2' third country for the purposes of the EU pet travel scheme, which means that new rules apply to pet movements from Great Britain to the EU and to Northern Ireland. The pet health and documentary requirements for such pet travel are set out under the EU Pet Travel Regulations.

Defra recognises the impact that these changes are having on pet owners and assistance dog users. We are continuing to seek agreement from the European Commission on awarding Great Britain 'Part 1' listed status and recognition of the UK's tapeworm-free status, and we see no valid animal health reason for these not to be granted.

We have one of the most rigorous pet checking regimes in Europe to protect our biosecurity and we are currently planning for further engagement with the EU to progress both of these issues. Achieving these would alleviate a number of pet travel rules for all travellers, including the need for an Animal Health Certificate (AHC). The costs of completing and issuing an AHC are commercial decisions, set by individual veterinary practices.

We are proactively engaging with the assistance dog community and relevant stakeholders on the impacts on dog movements from Great Britain to the EU. We will continue to work closely with assistance dog organisations to share the latest advice and guidance (in accessible formats) with their members on pet travel requirements.

Biometric Residence Permits: Afghanistan

Asked by *Lord Field of Birkenhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average delay time in issuing Biometric Residence Permit cards to refugees from Afghanistan. [HL578]

Lord Harrington of Watford: Over 15,000 people were supported to come to the UK directly following the evacuation of Afghanistan, with a further 3,000 having arrived since.

As we continue to grant people indefinite leave to remain in the UK, their BRPs are automatically issued, usually within a few weeks.

British Overseas Territories: Money Laundering and Tax Avoidance

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on reforming procedures in the UK's Overseas Territories to eliminate (1) tax avoidance, and (2) money laundering. [HL547]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Overseas Territories are committed to meeting international standards on illicit finance, tax transparency and anti-money laundering; including those set by the OECD and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Overseas Territories have their own democratically elected governments that set their financial services and fiscal policy. The Overseas Territories are all introducing publicly accessible registers of company beneficial ownership and they already share confidential information on company beneficial ownership with UK law enforcement bodies under the Exchange of Notes Arrangements. Information provided has enabled the seizure of illicit funds, including information to support the National Crime Agency's first Unexplained Wealth Order, which froze approximately £25 million. All Overseas Territories with financial centres are committed to global tax transparency standards such as the OECD Common Reporting Standard, an agreement to automatically exchange financial account information with other jurisdictions. The UK Government welcomes these commitments, which demonstrate that the Overseas Territories are responsible jurisdictions that will implement changing UK, EU and global norms.

Carbon Emissions: Local Government

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mandate the creation of net-zero transition plans from councils. [HL558]

Lord Callanan: As outlined in the Net Zero Strategy, the Government does not believe that a new general statutory requirement is needed for Local Authorities to deliver net zero. The Government has no plans to mandate the creation of net zero-transition plans.

Citizenship: Education

Asked by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to revise the inspection criteria for Citizenship Education with Ofsted; and what plans they have to publish (1) any correspondence, or (2) the minutes of meetings, with Ofsted, including of any meeting that took place on 15 March. [HL535]

Baroness Barran: I refer the noble Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts to the answer I gave on 25 April 2022 to question [HL7809](#).

The government has now responded to the recommendations outlined within 'The Ties that Bind: Citizenship and Civic Engagement in the 21st Century Follow-up report', including the recommendations relating to the inspection of citizenship education.

Dame Rosalind Marsden

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Sudan about its decision not to renew a visa for Dame Rosalind Marsden, a former British Ambassador and EU Representative to Sudan. [HL562]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: As publicly stated by our Ambassador in Khartoum on 23 May, we are disappointed that the Sudanese authorities have chosen not to renew the visa for Dame Rosalind Marsden. The decision is unfortunate especially given the request of the Sudanese authorities for the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS), and its partners to devote more attention to support for peacebuilding. In her capacity as a senior consultant to the UN in Sudan since July 2021, Dame Marsden has been supporting a series of integrated peacebuilding assessments, intended to help UN Agencies and partners design and prioritise needs for support at the state level and Juba Peace Agreement implementation and monitoring.

Deborah Yakubu

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to discuss the lynching of Deborah Yakubu with the government of Nigeria; and what steps they will take to promote the protection of Nigerians against religious persecution. [HL513]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The murder of Deborah Samuel in Sokoto State, Nigeria, on 13 May was a barbaric and heinous act. In response, the Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean expressed her public condemnation, and urged the relevant authorities to ensure the perpetrators face justice in line with the law.

Defending freedom of religion or belief for all, and promoting respect between different religious and non-religious communities, is a longstanding human rights priority for the UK Government. The UK Government regularly discusses human rights in Nigeria with the Nigerian authorities, stressing the importance of protecting and promoting human rights for all. During her visit to Nigeria in February, the Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean met with community and religious leaders, with whom she discussed, among other things, the impact of the deteriorating security situation in

Nigeria on local people, and their rights. She also discussed growing insecurity and violence with Nigeria's Vice President and Foreign Minister.

Detention Centres: Visits

Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many in-person legal visits took place under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS) between 1 January and 31 March at (1) Brook House, (2) Tinsley House, (3) Yarl's Wood, (4) Dungavel, (5) Harmondsworth, (6) Colnbrook, and (7) Derwentside, immigration removal centres (IRC); and how many in-person legal visits have taken place under the DDAS at each of these IRCs since 1 April. [HL587]

Asked by **Baroness Lister of Burtersett**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many in-person legal visits in total took place between 1 January and 31 March at (1) Brook House, (2) Tinsley House, (3) Yarl's Wood, (4) Dungavel, (5) Harmondsworth, (6) Colnbrook, and (7) Derwentside, immigration removal centres (IRC); and how many in-person legal visits in total have taken place at each of these IRCs since 1st April 2022. [HL588]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Detained individuals are advised of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in IRCs in England. Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

Legal visits can take place from both legal providers attending under the Legal Aid Detained Duty Advice Scheme and other legal providers visiting their clients who are in detention. In line with Government advice on social distancing, during the pandemic, face to face legal visits were facilitated in exceptional circumstances, and only if other means of contact (Skype, telephone, email) were not feasible or appropriate. In light of changes to Government guidance, face to face legal visits can now be facilitated. Safe systems of work are in place to ensure the safety of detained individuals, onsite staff and visitors during these visits.

The number of in-person legal visits, which includes both legal providers attending under the Legal Aid Detained Duty Advice Scheme and other legal providers visiting their clients who are in detention, that took place between 1 January and 26 May 2022, is set out in the table below:

<i>In person legal visits</i>	<i>Detained Duty Advice Scheme</i>		<i>Total: all other in-person legal visits*</i>	
	<i>1 January–31 March 2022</i>	<i>1 April 2022 to date</i>	<i>1 January–31 March 2022</i>	<i>1 April 2022 to date</i>
Brook House	4	10	90	22
Colnbrook	0	0	25	55
Derwentside	0	0	4	1
Dungavel	N/A		2	1
Harmondsworth	0	0	34	111
Tinsley House	0	0	0	0
Yarl's Wood	6	11	36	28

*Does not include in-person legal visits carried out under the DDA Scheme

This is provisional Home Office management information that has not been assured to the standard of official statistics.

Devolution: North of England

Asked by **Lord Inglewood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are proposing to ensure that those living in the north of England in locations where there is no devolution deal do not lose out compared to those in areas where there is a devolution deal. [HL584]

Lord Greenhalgh: In the Levelling Up White Paper, Government set itself a mission to ensure that by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution, with a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

Devolution must be locally led, not imposed by Government. Areas without a devolution deal are able to consider whether seeking one would maximise opportunities for citizens, and we believe that the local government reorganisation process that Cumbria and North Yorkshire are currently going through will enable them to find the best governance arrangements for their locality.

While further devolution across the UK is a key Levelling Up mission, it is one of 12 missions and those areas that are not currently involved in devolution discussions will not miss out on Levelling Up activities. Places in the North without a devolution deal are still able to capitalise on growth funds such as the Levelling Up Fund, round two of which is currently open, and will receive their UKSPF allocations following the submission of their investment plans this summer.

Diabetes: Health Services

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the report by JDRF Research to Reality, published in April, what discussions they have had with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) around embedding patient reported outcomes in their procedures. [HL541]

Lord Kamall: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will develop processes for patient engagement and involvement and has committed to publish information on how this is achieved. The MHRA intends to embed these processes by December 2022.

Energy: Generators

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure energy consumers benefit from low carbon energy generators paying back the difference between market price and strike price under Contracts for Difference; and how much money has been paid back to date. [HL548]

Lord Callanan: The Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC), which administers Contracts for Difference (CfD), carries out a financial reconciliation of the scheme's accounts at the end of each fiscal quarter. In April of this year, the LCCC returned £108.3m to British suppliers in respect of repayments made by generators since last autumn. Repayments to suppliers should ultimately be reflected in the tariffs they offer their customers. This is a commercial decision for each supplier.

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require companies with more than 50 employees to publish their ethnicity pay gap data. [HL555]

Lord Callanan: The Government has no plans to require companies with more than 50 employees to publish their ethnicity pay gap data. In Inclusive Britain, the Government's response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, we committed to publish guidance for employers on voluntary ethnicity pay reporting.

Food Poverty: Ministers

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to appoint a Food Poverty Minister. [HL508]

Lord Benyon: Victoria Prentis is the Minister responsible for food, working with industry to make sure food is available to buy. Defra is working with other Government departments on food policy and food insecurity, including the Department for Education on school meals and the Department for Work and Pensions on the welfare system, to ensure a government-wide approach to tackling pressures facing low-income households.

Food: Waste

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the environmental advantages that could be attained by the introduction to England of regulations similar to the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, which require that some food businesses take steps to present their food waste for separate collection. [HL569]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012, require some Scottish businesses to have separate food waste collections. The Government's proposed reforms, set out in the Environment Act, go further, requiring all English non-household municipal premises that produce food waste to have it collected separately. We conducted a recent consultation on consistent collections to consider the implementation of this measure, the results of which will be published in due course.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Embassies

Asked by *Viscount Trenchard*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Treasury provide the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office with financial support for the (1) maintenance, and (2) development, of the overseas diplomatic estate; and if not, what assessment they have made of the compatibility of this approach with their (a) Global Britain, and (b) tilt to Asia-Pacific, policies. [HL561]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The FCDO's Spending Round settlement provides funds for the maintenance of the diplomatic estate. The disposal of surplus, under-used and uneconomic assets releases capital to enable us to invest in the estate. Taken together, this provides much needed investment in the FCDO's wider diplomatic estate, providing modern, fit for purpose offices and residences, tackling a large deficit of health and safety, backlog building maintenance and security-related needs across Europe, Africa and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region, and funding various projects to help towards the FCDO's Net Zero ambitions.

Freeports: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making to identify a freeport in Northern Ireland; and whether they still plan to identify one. [HL549]

Asked by Lord Kilclooney

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is an obstacle to establishing a freeport within Northern Ireland. [HL585]

Lord Greenhalgh: The UK Government is committed to extending the Freeports programme to Northern Ireland as soon as possible. Our priority is to ensure we provide the best possible offer for Northern Ireland. We will make sure it is a competitive one that attracts businesses.

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the causes of the disparity between the numbers of visas granted to Ukrainian refugees on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and arrivals in the UK to date. [HL598]

Lord Harrington of Watford: There are various reasons why Ukrainians are waiting before travelling to the UK. We know through our partners on-the-ground that some people have applied for visas so they have the option of travelling to the UK but are currently staying elsewhere, for example in countries near the border so they can get back to Ukraine more quickly. Others may have applied to a UK scheme but then decided to stay where they are or travel elsewhere.

Immigration Controls: Airports

Asked by Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Border Force regarding problems encountered by passengers at e-gates with the new UK passports. [HL154]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Passengers may be referred from the e-Gates to an officer at PCP desks for a variety of reasons. There are well defined processes for updating UK border systems when new documents are introduced and the performance of new British passports through UK border controls is being monitored. We are receiving feedback there may be higher levels of referrals with some of these passports and are working to determine the root cause.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the national elections in Lebanon on 15 May, what steps

they are taking to help to support the formation of a new government in that country in order that it can take steps to comply with all the conditions necessary to unlock IMF funding, as outlined in the Agreement on Economic Policies with Lebanon for a Four-Year Extended Fund Facility (7 April); and what targeted humanitarian aid they are providing to avert the further deterioration of the situation in that country. [HL594]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We welcomed the holding of parliamentary elections on 15 May. Lebanon's new Members of Parliament must now put aside their differences to work together in the interests of the Lebanese people. We urge the new parliament to proceed urgently to form an inclusive government that is empowered to take forward the essential reform agenda, including finalising the agreement with the International Monetary Fund, to get Lebanon on the path to recovery. Since 2011, the UK has allocated over £787 million in humanitarian and development funding to Lebanon to support Syrian refugees and other vulnerable people, including Lebanese. The UK and members of the International Support Group for Lebanon stand with the people of Lebanon in their time of need, but we are clear that Lebanon's leaders must implement a credible reform process as the only sustainable way to address the ongoing crisis.

Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the definition of the "Declaration of Helsinki" in Schedule 1 to the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 to refer to the current version of that Declaration. [HL579]

Lord Kamall: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency recently undertook a consultation on changes to the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004, including Schedule 1. The responses to the consultation are currently being analysed and the response will be published in due course.

Members: Codes of Practice

Asked by Lord Pendry

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker whether he will table a motion to propose amendments to the Code of Conduct to allow Members of the House who are found by the Commissioners for Standards to have broken the Code to have a right of verbal appeal against any (1) report, or (2) sanction, against them. [HL796]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: I have consulted the Chair of the Conduct Committee in preparing this answer.

The Guide to the Code of Conduct gives members a full right of appeal against the findings of the Commissioners for Standards. In March 2020 the House agreed that the Conduct Committee should, having considered any

written appeal, be authorised to decide whether an in-person hearing is necessary. I have no plans to invite the Conduct Committee to look again at this issue.

Nigeria: Christianity

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the findings of Professor Obiora Ike, Executive Director of Globethics.net, that over 30,000 Nigerians from Christian backgrounds have been killed over the last decade, and others kidnapped, brutalised or driven from their homes. [HL512]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: We are aware of the report in question and a number of other recent reports concerning the drivers of violence in Nigeria. The UK Government continues to follow increasing insecurity across Nigeria with concern, which has a devastating impact on affected communities, including both Christian and Muslim communities. The principal causes of violence across Nigeria are complex, and include criminality and competition over resources. We continue to urge and support the Nigerian Government to take action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence and ensure the right to Freedom of Religion or Belief for all.

The Minister for Africa visited Nigeria in February 2022 and raised rising insecurity and its impact on the Nigerian people in meetings with the Vice President, Foreign Minister and several State Governors. The Minister was pleased to be able to meet with a range of interlocutors, including faith and NGO leaders, and held detailed discussions about the causes of violence. At the first dialogue of our Security and Defence Partnership in February, the UK and Nigerian Governments committed to work together to respond to rising insecurity and promote human rights. We continue to encourage the Nigerian Government to take urgent action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence.

Northern Ireland Protocol

Asked by Lord Morrow

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increase in (1) costs, and (2) checks, of transporting livestock from Northern Ireland to Great Britain and back since the introduction of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland; and what steps they intend to take to reduce those costs. [HL438]

Lord Benyon: The UK Government has not formally assessed the costs associated with the movements and checks of transporting livestock between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK Government does consider that the introduction of the protocol has had an effect on the costs involved in moving livestock between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The UK Government has therefore secured a derogation from EU rules for livestock

moving from Northern Ireland to Great Britain for shows and sales. The derogation allows livestock to return to Northern Ireland within 15 days, which has reduced costs and burdens to traders.

Northern Ireland: Animal Welfare

Asked by Lord Morrow

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the requirement for animals transported from Great Britain to Northern Ireland (1) to go to an approved export centre prior to transport, and (2) to remain there for six months while being tested and health certified; and what steps they are taking to reduce these requirements. [HL439]

Lord Benyon: The Northern Ireland Protocol requires animals to attend approved assembly centres for a maximum of 6 days once they have remained in Great Britain for a period of 3-6 months, or from birth, depending on the reason for the movement to Northern Ireland.

The UK Government continues to discuss these extra burdens with the EU in an effort to reduce requirements.

Nuclear Disarmament and Proliferation

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, both in the UN and with bilateral partners, to assess the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on support for the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, ahead of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to be held in New York in August. [HL595]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Ministers and senior officials regularly engage in the UN and with our international partners on matters relating to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The NPT has, for the last 50 years, been the cornerstone of international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, create a nuclear weapon free world and enable access to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The UK was part of the G7 Non-Proliferation Directors Group Statement on 9 May, which strongly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and reaffirmed the G7's commitment to strengthening the NPT and existing nuclear security architecture. The UK looks forward to working with all states to strengthen the NPT at the upcoming Tenth Review Conference this August.

Office for Nuclear Regulation: Security

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons behind the rise in notifications of security incidents to the Office for

Nuclear Regulation in 2021, to more than double than the number in 2018. [HL568]

Lord Callanan: Nuclear security is a top priority for the Government and all civil nuclear operators are answerable to the independent Office for Nuclear Regulation, which enforces robust security requirements and reporting obligations. The vast majority (80-90%) of the incidents reported were minor breaches of operators' arrangements and ONR's analysis indicates that the rise reflects improvements in security awareness, culture and reporting, rather than a decline. ONR strongly encourages operators to report all minor matters as this provides the regulator with rich regulatory intelligence and enables trend monitoring.

Overseas Students: Ukraine

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 25 May (HL235), how many Ukrainian university students have been given visas to study at a UK university, following Russia's invasion of that country. [HL554]

Baroness Barran: The information requested is not held by the department. The Home Office is responsible for issuing visas, including student visas.

Following Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine we have seen an extremely positive response from the higher education sector in their offer of support to future cohorts of Ukrainian students. We are confident the sector will do their utmost to support Ukrainians wishing to access higher education in the next academic year.

In addition, UUKi are progressing wider efforts to establish a mechanism to match UK universities with Ukrainian institutions through a twinning arrangement. The intention of this programme is to help Ukrainian universities sustain their operations and wherever possible, continue to retain their staff and students, albeit in partnership or remotely.

Pacific Ocean Islands: Development Aid

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the recent security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands, what steps they will take in conjunction with the governments of (1) Australia, and (2) the United States, to assist (a) Fiji, (b) Papua New Guinea, and (c) other small Pacific island states, in response to any strategic plan from the government of China covering police and cybersecurity measures and marine spatial mapping. [HL574]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to work with democratic allies in the Pacific region to offer improved assistance on a range of measures to match or better those being offered by

China to small independent nations in the Pacific. [HL575]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As set out in the Integrated Review (March 2021), the UK is committed to and strategically focussed on the Indo-Pacific region. The UK's close partnership with the US, Australia, New Zealand, and other likeminded partners such as Japan, across the region, is an important part of our Indo-Pacific focus and ambitions to build a 'network of liberty' that champions freedom, sovereignty and democracy across the region and globally. The Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary visited Australia in January 2022 for talks to strengthen economic, diplomatic and security ties. On 8 March David Quarrey, the UK's previous Deputy National Security Adviser and the US' Indo-Pacific coordinator Kurt Campbell, announced that the US and the UK will work together to invest in partnerships with the Pacific Islands.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current political situation in Pakistan; and what steps they are taking, together with international partners, to help Pakistan's coalition government to promote stability and avoid violence, in view of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's comments asking for new elections and asserting foreign intervention in the forming of the new coalition government. [HL593]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The change in government was a domestic matter for Pakistan. We respect Pakistan's democratic system, and do not interfere in its domestic political affairs. We will continue to work with the Government of Pakistan to advance our shared priorities and interests, including the promotion of national and regional stability.

Public Records

Asked by Lord Blunkett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what agreement has been reached on the timetable for the further release of official Government documents relating to the period from 1997. [HL576]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Government records are released in line with the requirements set out in the Public Records Act 1958 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Each department is responsible for complying with its obligations under this legislation.

Since 2013, Government departments have been transitioning to a '20-year rule' – that is, transferring selected records 20 years after they were created. This is a reduction from 30 years. Under this transition, departments should be compliant with the 20-year timeframe by the end of 2022.

Refugees: Disability

Asked by **Baroness Fraser of Craigmaddie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so how, they are assessing the numbers of refugees with disabilities arriving in the UK. [HL527]

Lord Harrington of Watford: The Home Office provides resettlement solely on the basis of needs, identified by UNHCR. Details of a refugee's vulnerabilities and additional needs are captured by UNHCR and provided to the Home Office in order to assist us securing resettlement with a local authority.

Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Information requested which is not contained within this published data is not routinely captured. To capture numbers would require a manual trawl of data and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Refugees: Ukraine

Asked by **Baroness Sheehan**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they can provide regarding the delay in granting a Permission to Travel Letter to Ukrainian refugee Reference: GWF064289249, given that the two children of this individual have received their Permission to Travel Letters. [HL596]

Lord Harrington of Watford: We can confirm a permission to travel letter has been issued.

Asked by **Lord Truscott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Ukrainians who have left Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion of that country; and how many have settled in the UK to date. [HL599]

Lord Harrington of Watford: Information on the number of arrivals can be found in our published Homes for Ukraine data: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and under the Homes For Ukraine and Ukrainian Family Scheme data lists: Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Summary table: data as received from the Home Office as at 7 June 2022

Location	Sponsor	Number of visa applications	Number of visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
England	Sponsored by individuals	69,065	62,662	40,085
Northern Ireland	Sponsored by individuals	1,159	993	231
Scotland	Sponsored by individuals	3,691	3,348	2,035
	Sponsored by the Scottish Government	9,170	8,183	2,236
	Total	12,861	11,531	4,271
Wales	Sponsored by individuals	2,839	2,538	1,609
	Sponsored by the Welsh Government	3,116	2,693	590
	Total	5,955	5,231	2,199

Notes to the summary table

1. These data are provisional management information from live operational systems and are subject to change.

The data have not gone through the same levels of quality assurance as official statistics.

Total Ukraine Scheme visa applications received: 154,500.

Data is as of 7 June 2022 and comprised of:

Ukraine Family Scheme: 47,300.

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 107,200.

Total Ukraine Scheme visas issued to people: 124,400.

Data is as of 7 June 2022 and comprised of:

Ukraine Family Scheme visas: 41,000.

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas: 83,400.

Total arrivals of Ukraine Scheme visa-holders in the UK: 70,500.

Data is as of 6 June 2022 and comprised of:

arrivals via Ukraine Family Scheme: 24,000.

arrivals via Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 46,500.

Renewable Energy

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the overall limit on the capacity of renewable energy generation at auctions. [HL556]

Lord Callanan: On 20th May, the Government increased the budget available to offshore wind projects in the fourth Contracts for Difference allocation round by £10m to £210m. While there are maximum limits on how much onshore wind and solar can be successful in the auction, there are no limits on the capacity of other technologies, including offshore wind.

Russia and Ukraine: Conflict Resolution

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their policy is to de-escalate the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in order to restore peace; and if not, why not. [HL546]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK welcomes Ukraine's ongoing commitment to a diplomatic path to de-escalate. We will continue to support them in achieving an outcome that delivers for Ukraine and its people. President Putin seems determined to pursue his path of violence and aggression, as evidenced by his increased military action in the Donbas and the barbaric assault of Mariupol. We are therefore continuing to increase our economic pressure on him through sanctions, as well as providing the military assistance Ukraine needs to defend itself.

Russia: Freezing of Assets

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to utilising frozen Russian assets; and whether they could be repurposed (1) to provide victims with reparations, or (2) to help to rebuild Ukraine. [HL469]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: When a person or organisation is subject to an asset freeze, any funds or economic resources belonging to them will be frozen immediately by the person in possession or control of them. An asset freeze does not lead to a change of ownership, and the release of frozen assets may only be accomplished legally with a licence from the Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation. The UK along with our allies will continue to put more pressure on Putin's regime until he withdraws his troops and ends this unjust war. Nothing and no one is off the table.

Scots Guards: Uniforms

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the London Scottish Hodden Grey tartan was replaced when the London Scottish regiment adopted the dress of the Scots Guards; and whether this was consistent with the undertaking in the previous defence review concerning further cap badge losses from regiments. [HL572]

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any forecast of the impact on the numbers of recruits to the London Scottish Regiment following the change in uniform from Highland dress to the uniform of the Scots Guards. [HL573]

Baroness Goldie: Under Future Soldier, the London Regiment redesignated as 1st Battalion London Guards on 1 May 2022. As part of this change, the four companies within the Regiment have adopted the name, cap badge and dress of their new affiliated Regular Regiment.

In the case of A (London Scottish) Company which redesignated as G (Messines) Company, it has become the Reserve Company of the Scots Guards and has adopted the cap badge and dress of this regiment.

Whilst there has not been a forecast of the impact on recruitment, the redesignation should provide the soldiers in G (Messines) Company with more opportunities to deploy on operations and exercises alongside their regular counterparts. Coupled with the Guards brand, it is therefore expected that there will be a positive impact on recruitment and retention.

South Sudan: Humanitarian Aid

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the escalation of conflict in the Abyei Administrative Area since March. [HL47]

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of recent incidents of (1) gender-based violence, and (2) missing children, in the Abyei Administrative Area. [HL48]

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to address the resource constraints of major aid organisations, including the World Food Programme, operating in the Abyei Administrative Area. [HL49]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Minister for Africa is concerned at recent violence in Abyei, including reports of gender-based violence and missing children. We expressed our concerns at the violence at the UN Security Council on 21 April and underscored the continued need for the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), mandated to provide protection of civilians and facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid. Over the past year, the UN Security Council has ensured that UNISFA's mandate better equips the mission to respond quickly to security incidents and to place greater emphasis on community engagement.

We are working with the UN and the humanitarian community in Sudan and South Sudan to address humanitarian needs in Abyei. As part of this, in 2021 we contributed £27 million to the humanitarian response in Sudan via partners, including the World Food Programme. This year in South Sudan we will reach 2 million people with some form of humanitarian assistance and support 400,000 girls to access education, including in the Abyei region. We also continue to call on the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to allow humanitarian actors to deliver aid to those in need in all parts of Abyei, without hindrance.

Tokyo: Embassies

Asked by Viscount Trenchard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the decision to sell part of the British Embassy estate in Tokyo. [HL559]

Asked by Viscount Trenchard

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the sale of part of the British Embassy in Tokyo during the 150th anniversary year of the visit to the UK of the Iwakura Mission. [HL560]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The FCDO has completed the sale of an under-used part of our Tokyo compound to Mitsubishi Estates, while retaining the Chancery building and its historic frontage. In line with our ambitions for the Indo-Pacific tilt, this sale gives us the opportunity to modernise and upgrade our Tokyo embassy to ensure it is truly representative of the best of Britain, including through sustainable and inclusive design, whilst also preserving its heritage buildings. The sale has maximised value for money for the British taxpayer, funding much-needed investment not just in Tokyo but also elsewhere in our global estate. The Japanese Government has been kept informed of our plans.

Transport: Electricity

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that energy infrastructure is sufficient in all regions to support the uptake of electrified transport. [HL557]

Lord Callanan: Through the recently published EV Infrastructure Strategy, the Government set out roles and responsibilities for local authorities and Distribution Network Operators to provide a comprehensive network of charge points.

£2.5 billion of Government funding has been committed to the EV transition since 2020, over £1.6 billion of which will be used to support charging infrastructure. This includes £500m to support local charge point provision and £950m to unlock electricity network capacity to deliver 6,000 ultra-rapid charge points at motorway service areas and major A roads by 2035.

The upcoming price control for electricity distribution will enable network companies to ready the electricity network for the increase in charge point deployment.

Ukraine: Shipping

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the passage of ships from non-NATO countries into the Port of Odessa to enable the shipment of grain to countries facing food shortages. [HL515]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We continue to work with international partners to resume the export of grain and other important food exports like sunflower oil from Ukraine to the countries that desperately need them. We support the US Call to Action and the German Presidency-led G7 Global Alliance as ways to achieve this. We are urgently working with Ukraine, the UN, the G7 and the international community to restart Ukraine's food exports to global markets via the international commercial shipping industry.

UN Commission on Human Rights

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Pakistan about the report Unequal Citizens - Ending Systematic Discrimination Against Minorities, published by the National Commission on Human Rights in May 2022; and what steps they are taking to prevent the practices analysed in the publication. [HL563]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The National Commission on Human Rights' report highlights the challenges faced by Pakistani minorities in accessing government roles and the poor conditions they often face

as low-paid sanitation workers. The UK regularly raises concerns regarding the protection of minorities at a senior level with the Government of Pakistan. Our programme funding seeks to reinforce these messages and to address the underlying causes. The Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID), a UK Government-funded multi-country programme, has implemented a project in Pakistan to protect minorities who work as sewage and sanitation workers. We will continue to urge the Government of Pakistan to guarantee the rights of all people, particularly the most vulnerable.

Visas

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of other visa routes in addition to the Tier 1 (Investor) Visa route which might also be vulnerable to (1) national security, or (2) illicit finance, risks; and, if no such assessment has been made, whether they will now conduct one. [HL252]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office continually monitors the immigration system to mitigate any national security and other risks.

Visas: Ukraine

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases there are in which Ukrainian family members have not been dealt with by UKVI as one group, resulting in children being granted visas but not their parent, or vice versa; and what assessment they have made of whether children in such circumstances are more vulnerable to traffickers. [HL597]

Lord Harrington of Watford: Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: Ukraine Schemes: application data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Information requested that is not contained within this published data is not routinely captured. To capture numbers would require a manual trawl of data and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Females

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any detention capacity for women is currently available at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre; if

not, whether they plan to make such capacity available; and if so, when. [HL589]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient capacity, in the right places and that it provides value for money.

The Home Office opened Derwentside immigration removal centre (IRC) for women in November 2021. We plan to supplement the new IRC by continuing to provide some detention capacity for women at Colnbrook, Dungavel and Yarl's Wood IRCS. We have already completed design work to ensure the women's space at Yarl's Wood will be entirely separate from male resident space and we are planning to transition part of the Yarl's Wood site back to an immigration removal centre for around 60 women. We will open the refurbished accommodation in late summer.

In order to meet operational needs and demands, we will continue to operate the immigration removal estate, including Yarl's Wood, in a flexible manner and in line with the STHF Rules 2018 and the Detention Centre Rules 2001, as appropriate.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Yemen to persuade them (1) to resolve their conflict, and (2) to not resume fighting on 1 June. [HL583]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK welcomes the extension on 2 June of the UN-brokered truce in Yemen and urges the parties to continue dialogue towards a durable ceasefire and an inclusive political settlement under UN auspices. After over seven long years of conflict, a negotiated political settlement is the only way to bring long-term stability to Yemen and to end the humanitarian suffering. The UK continues to use its diplomatic relations and role as penholder on Yemen in the UN Security Council to support efforts to towards political dialogue and peace. Minister Cleverly discussed UK support for peace efforts with Yemeni Foreign Minister Ahmed bin Mubarak on 1 April and with the Head of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council Rashad Al Alimi on 12 May. The UK Ambassador to Yemen met members of the Presidential Leadership Council in Aden on 23 May.

Updates from the Office of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen are published at <https://osesgy.unmissions.org/>.

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