

**Session 2022-23**  
**No. 18**



**Thursday**  
**16 June 2022**

**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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<b>Earl Howe</b>	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>Lord Ashton of Hyde</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Barran</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Lord Bellamy</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
<b>Lord Benyon</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Caine</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
<b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</b>	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>Lord Greenhalgh</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Grimstone of Boscobel</b>	Minister of State, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Harrington of Watford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Kamall</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<b>Lord Offord of Garvel</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
<b>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Whip
<b>Baroness Penn</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Scott of Bybrook</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Sharpe of Epsom</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Stedman-Scott</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Work and Pensions
<b>Lord Stewart of Dirleton</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<b>Lord True</b>	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Minister of State, Home Office
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Whip

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# Written Statements

Thursday, 16 June 2022

## Aviation Industry Disruption

[HLWS109]

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

Over the Half Term Jubilee weekend, we saw disruption at UK airports with some passengers facing long queues and cancellations largely due to staff shortages at airports, airlines and ground handlers. These experiences, for too many consumers recently, have been unacceptable.

The Secretary of State and I have made it clear to the sector that they need to operate services that are offered for sale properly and according to schedule, or provide swift, appropriate compensation.

The aviation industry is privately owned, operated, and run. It is therefore responsible for making sure that it has enough staff to meet demand and to operate the flights offered for sale. It is important that the sector is a competitive, attractive market for workers. The Government has called upon the sector's leadership to offer better packages and build a resilient workforce to meet demand.

Since earlier this year, Government has worked across a number of different areas to help the industry alleviate the issues they have been facing. We are clear that consumers should not lose out. The Government is taking steps to boost consumer rights, including recently consulting on using our Brexit freedoms to enhance consumer protections. We have committed to publishing an aviation passenger charter to ensure consumers can access information about their rights all in one place.

We have sought ways to ease the burden of background checks carried out by industry. A Statutory Instrument was laid on 29 April to provide greater flexibility, enabling Ministers to take the decision to allow certain training to be undertaken while background checks were completed. Ministers have also agreed that HMRC employment history letters can be used as a suitable form of reference check - with safeguards in place. These temporary alleviations have helped to speed up recruitment times.

In partnership with the Civil Aviation Authority, the Government has written to the industry setting out five specific expectations we have for the aviation sector this summer:

- 1) Summer schedules must be reviewed to make sure they are deliverable.
- 2) Everyone from ground handlers to air traffic control must collaborate on resilience planning.

3) Passengers must be promptly informed of their consumer rights when things go wrong, and – if necessary – compensated in good time.

4) Disabled and less mobile passengers must be given assistance they require.

5) Safety and security must never be compromised.

I am chairing a Strategic Risk Group with CEOs of the aviation sector, which will meet on a weekly basis going into the summer. This group will identify possible interventions to further improve the resilience of the sector, and will be used to hold the sector to account for delivering its schedules. DfT Ministers and senior officials will continue to monitor the situation closely to make sure consumers do not lose out from any further disruption.

## Future of Freight Plan

[HLWS102]

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

As a proud, free-trading nation, moving goods domestically and abroad has always been the backbone of the United Kingdom's economy. Throughout the pandemic and in our work to deliver Brexit and a Global Britain we have been reminded of the vital role that the freight and logistics sector has supporting the supply chains that maintain our economic wellbeing. Across government we have worked collectively, and collaboratively with industry to mitigate disruption to our supply chains. We have delivered unprecedented action with 33 measures to help the sector tackle the shortage of HGV drivers. This included making more driving test slots available than needed and introducing bootcamps, which has seen the number of available HGV drivers stabilise. We also provided vital support to ferry and freight operators to weather the start of the pandemic. This, alongside other actions, has led to sector reports of pressures easing following global challenges on the supply chain, and supported this highly effective and adaptable sector to maintain the smooth flow of goods into, out of and across the country.

It is now important that we look to ensure that the sector is ready to grasp opportunities in the medium- and long-term. The Future of Freight is the first time that the UK government has developed a long-term cross-modal plan for the freight and logistics sector. The plan is a collaboration with industry and we have engaged stakeholders extensively in its development, including through the Freight Council. It sets out how the UK government and industry have agreed to work more closely together, and with the Devolved Administrations, to deliver a world-class, seamless flow of freight across our roads, railways, seas, skies and waterways.

The vision set out in the plan is for a freight and logistics sector that is cost-efficient, reliable, resilient, environmentally sustainable and valued by society for its role in supporting our way of life. The plan is also clear

on the importance of the sector to achieving some of the government's strategic priorities. The sector is ideally placed to support Levelling Up driving economic activity across all corners of the UK and providing secure employment, for example in ports and distribution centres sited in levelling-up priority areas, and opportunities in all our communities. The plan also supports our efforts to strengthen the Union improving connectivity across the United Kingdom.

The plan focuses on five priority areas of challenge identified with industry. It is the start of a long-term collaboration which will raise the status of freight within government. It sets out government and industry commitment to collaborate on a number of actions:

*The National Freight Network:* We will identify a National Freight Network (NFN) across road, rail, maritime, aviation, inland waterway and warehouse infrastructure. Our long-term aim will be to remove the barriers which prevent the seamless flow of freight.

*Transition to Net Zero:* We want to support the entire sector in its transition to Net Zero. We will launch the Freight Energy Forum with industry, focused on collaborating with industry to assess future energy and fuel needs and paths to providing the requisite infrastructure.

*Planning:* We will further embed freight in planning, transport and design policy and guidance, and ensure freight is represented in planning reform. We will publish a call for evidence with industry to support this work.

*People & Skills:* We will expand awareness of the sector and freight careers amongst the public, particularly through the industry-led and government-backed Generation Logistics communication campaign. This will maximise the impact of cross-government employment and skills programmes for the freight sector.

*Data & Technology:* We will maximise opportunities for uptake of innovative technology and digitalisation, including through delivery of a dedicated cross-modal £7m Freight Innovation Fund.

Moving goods efficiently has underpinned Britain's historical growth, prosperity and global influence. In today's increasingly interconnected and competitive global economy, we require a world beating freight and logistics sector that will deliver the greener, fairer, and stronger economy we need. A sector that will help build a truly Global Britain.

I will place a copy of the future of freight: a long-term plan in the libraries of both Houses.

## National Security and Investment Annual Report: 2022

[HLWS104]

**Lord Callanan:** My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Kwasi Kwarteng) has today made the following statement:

I am today laying before Parliament the first Annual Report under the National Security and Investment Act 2021. I will place copies in the Libraries of both Houses and the Report will also be published on Gov.uk.

The National Security and Investment Act 2021 protects the UK from risks to national security arising from acquisitions of control of entities and assets. In doing so it also maintains the UK's status as an attractive place to invest. The system is predictable, enabling businesses involved in acquisitions to have certainty when engaging with it and it provides clear and efficient clearance processes for relevant acquisitions to be assessed, for remedies to be applied if necessary.

The new National Security and Investment (NSI) system commenced on 4 January 2022. The Act requires me to report on the system each year after 31 March.

I am pleased to lay the first NSI Act Annual Report before the House today. This fulfils my requirements under section 61 of the Act for this year.

The Report shows that the system has started strongly. As of 31 March, the Investment Security Unit received 222 notifications and accepted 201 of them. To that date I had issued 17 call-in notices. Of those notifications that were cleared without any further action, all were cleared within the statutory 30 working day limit. I had not imposed any final orders (the means by which I can impose conditions on, block, or unwind an acquisition) by 31 March in relation to the 17 call-in notices issued, though the full national security assessment process was still ongoing for many of them.

Because the data covers only the first three months of the Act's operation, we cannot draw long-term conclusions or observe patterns with accuracy. However, the system is operating well and, extrapolating out, volumes at each stage are within the estimates provided by the Impact Assessment.

We brought forward the reforms in the NSI Act to protect national security while keeping the UK open to investment. The early data is encouraging and shows that these objectives can be complementary rather than mutually exclusive. Those who wish us harm should be in no doubt that we will always act to protect the UK's national security interests. Equally, the Government's ambition is for the UK to be the best place in the world to invest and to start and grow a business, so I hope that business leaders and investors will take confidence from this report.

## Private Rented Sector White Paper

[HLWS108]

**Lord Greenhalgh:** My Hon. Friend, the Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing (Eddie Hughes MP), has today made the following written statement: The Government has today published its White Paper *A Fairer Private Rented Sector*.

The private rented sector currently offers the most expensive, least secure, and lowest quality housing to a

growing number of vulnerable people, including 1.3 million households with children and 382,000 households over 65. This is driving unacceptable outcomes and is holding back some of the most deprived parts of the country.

Many renters face a lack of security as they can be evicted without a reason at just two months' notice (so called 'no fault' Section 21 evictions, under the Housing Act 1988). This means many tenants do not challenge their landlords or agents on standards. Renters also feel that they can't put down roots in their local areas, which does nothing for community cohesion.

The system doesn't work for good landlords either, the majority of whom do right by their tenants and offer them a positive, secure living situation. They lack the ability to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour or deliberate and persistent non-payment of rent. Most landlords are trying to do the right thing but simply cannot access the information they need. Further, inadequate enforcement is allowing criminal landlords to thrive, which harms tenants and reputable landlords.

The *A Fairer Private Rented Sector* White Paper builds on the vision in the *Levelling Up* White Paper and sets out our plans to fundamentally reform the private rented sector and level up housing quality in this country. It sets the strategic direction for the PRS for the first time in a generation and demonstrates our ambition and determination to give private renters a better deal.

The White Paper sets out a 12-point action plan of how we will deliver a fairer, more secure, higher quality private rented sector:

#### *Safe and Decent Homes*

The PRS has some of the worst housing of all tenures. We will improve this by:

- Delivering on our levelling up housing mission and require privately rented homes to meet the Decent Homes Standard for the first time. This will give renters safer and better value homes and remove the blight of poor-quality homes in local communities.
- Accelerating quality improvements in the areas that need it most. We will run pilot schemes with a selection of local authorities to explore different ways of enforcing standards and work with landlords to speed up adoption of the Decent Homes Standard.

#### *Increased Security and Stability*

For too long tenants have felt powerless and unable to challenge poor practice. We want to change this. We will rebalance the law to deliver a radically fairer deal for renters, while making sure that landlords can regain possession of their property when needed. We will achieve this by:

- Delivering on our manifesto commitment to abolish Section 21 'no fault' evictions and introducing a simpler, more secure tenancy structure. A tenancy will only end if the tenant ends it or if the landlord has a valid ground for possession, empowering tenants to

challenge poor practice and reducing costs associated with unexpected moves.

- Reforming grounds for possession to make sure that landlords have effective means to gain possession of their properties when necessary. We will expedite landlords' ability to evict those who disrupt neighbourhoods through antisocial behaviour and introduce new grounds for persistent arrears and sale of the property.

#### *Improved Dispute Resolution*

Tenants and landlords need structures in place that allow them to resolve disputes efficiently and fairly. We will deliver on this by:

- Only allowing increases to rent once per year, ending the use of rent review clauses, and furthering tenants' ability to challenge excessive rent increases through the First-tier Tribunal to support people to manage their costs and to remain in their homes.
- Strengthening tenants' ability to hold their landlord to account and introduce a new single Ombudsman that all private landlords must join. This will provide fair, impartial, and binding resolution to many issues and be quicker, cheaper and less adversarial than the court system.
- Working with the Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) to target the areas where there are unacceptable delays in court proceedings. We will also strengthen mediation and alternative dispute resolution to enable landlords and tenants to work together to reduce the risk of issues escalating.

#### *Better Compliance and Robust Enforcement*

Landlords, tenants, and local authorities need access to the right information and, for local authorities, the right powers, to crack down on poor practice. We will deliver this by:

- Introducing a new Property Portal to make sure that tenants, landlords and local authorities have the information they need. The portal will provide a single 'front door' for landlords to understand their responsibilities, tenants will be able to access information about their landlord's compliance and local councils will have access to better data to crack down on criminal landlords. We also intend to incorporate some of the functionality of the Database of Rogue Landlords, mandating the entry of all eligible landlord offences and making them publicly visible (subject to consultation with the Information Commissioner's Office).
- Strengthening local councils' enforcement powers and ability to crack down on criminal landlords by seeking to increase investigative powers and strengthening the fine regime for serious offences. We are also exploring a requirement for local councils to report on their housing enforcement activity and want to recognise those local councils that are doing a good job.

### *A Positive Renting Experience*

We want to improve the experience of everyone who rents in the private rented sector and will:

- Legislate to make it illegal for landlords or agents to have blanket bans on renting to families with children or those in receipt of benefits and explore if action is needed for other vulnerable groups, such as prison leavers. We will also improve support to landlords who let to people on benefits, which will reduce barriers for those on the lowest incomes.
- Give tenants the right to request a pet in their property, which the landlord must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse. We will also amend the Tenant Fees Act 2019 so landlords can request that their tenants buy pet insurance.
- Work with industry experts to monitor the development of innovative market-led solutions to passport deposits. This will help tenants who struggle to raise a second deposit to move around the PRS more easily and support tenants to save for ownership.

We have already taken significant action to improve private renting, including significantly reducing the proportion of non-decent private rented homes, banning tenancy fees for tenancy agreements signed after 1 June 2019, and introducing pandemic emergency measures to ban bailiff evictions – these reforms will finish the job that we started in 201- and deliver a fairer private rented sector.

We have also today published the Government response to the 2019 consultation “*A new deal for renting*” that sets out how the new tenancy regime will work once section 21 evictions are abolished, the Government response to the ‘*Considering the case for a Housing Court*’ call for evidence, and the Government response to the 2019 Tenancy Deposit Reform Call for Evidence. We will be depositing copies of these documents in the House Library.

We will deliver on these reforms in the forthcoming Parliamentary session, which will drive real change and make the private rented sector fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These reforms will apply to England only.

### **Rape Cases: Progress Update and Measures to Improve Outcomes**

[HLWS110]

**Lord Bellamy:** My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Victoria Atkins) has made the following written statement:

Today the Government is announcing additional funding for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse, publishing a progress report on the implementation of the Rape Review action plan and the next iteration of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) Delivery Data Dashboard. These form an important part of our commitment to transform the criminal justice system

response to rape, boost transparency and ensure victims get the support they deserve.

The Government is announcing:

- An additional £6.6m p.a boost on a multi-year basis throughout this Spending Review period, for services supporting victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. £6m is being provided directly to Police and Crime Commissioners to increase community-based support in local areas and £0.6m for training to support the recruitment of the 300 additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors over the next 3 years.
- The publication of a progress report one year on from the publication of the End-to-End Rape Review Action Plan. This delivers on commitments in the Rape Review to be transparent and accountable to the public on how we are progressing work to improve the cross-system response to rape.
- The third iteration of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) Delivery Data Dashboard, previously named the CJS scorecard. This publication includes additional Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) metrics and population adjustments.

Together, these products will contribute to this Government’s commitment to restore faith in the criminal justice system, pursue justice for victims, and build back safer.

### **Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures: 1 December 2021 to 28 February 2022**

[HLWS105]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Security and Borders (Damian Hinds) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIM) Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 28 February 2022)	2
Number of new TPIM notices served (during this period)	0
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 28 February 2022)	2
TPIM notices extended (during the reporting period)	0
TPIM notices revoked (during the reporting period)	1
TPIM notices expired (during reporting period)	1
TPIM notices revived (during the reporting period)	0
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices (during the reporting period)	0

Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused (during the reporting period)	0
The number of subjects relocated under TPIM legislation (during this the reporting period)	1

The TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The first quarter TRG meetings were held on 12 and 13 April 2022. On 8 December 2021 one individual was charged with 5 breaches of the electronic communication device measure of the TPIM notice.

### **UK Air Defence Support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

[HLWS107]

**Baroness Goldie:** My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

After the attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) oil production facilities on 14 September 2019, the UK has worked with Saudi Arabia and international partners to help defend critical infrastructure and support the territorial integrity of the Kingdom. The UK deployed two GIRAFFE radars in February 2020 to help mitigate the continued aerial threats that the Kingdom has faced. The deployment was purely defensive in nature. It was necessary to repatriate these radars in December 2021, but the threat to Saudi Arabia has not abated and the requirement to support KSA remains.

The Ministry of Defence has conducted a phased follow-on deployment of air defence equipment to Saudi Arabia. The deployment comprises a small number of High Velocity Missile (Self Propelled) systems and associated personnel. As with the GIRAFFE radars, this is a purely defensive capability, and is being deployed solely to support KSA efforts to defend itself from persistent aerial threats to their territorial integrity.

### **UK-EEA EFTA Separation Agreement: Joint Committee Meeting**

[HLWS103]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** My Right Honourable Friend, the Minister for Europe and North America (James Cleverly), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The UK-EEA EFTA Separation Agreement, which was agreed with Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, and signed on 28 January 2020, covers citizens' rights and separation provisions. The Separation Agreement established a Joint Committee whose primary role is to supervise and facilitate the implementation and application of the Separation Agreement, with the power to make Decisions. The Joint Committee has a rotating chair which is currently held by Liechtenstein. The third meeting of the Joint Committee took place on 8 June 2022 in London, and focused on citizens' rights. Each of the Parties to the Agreement gave an update on the implementation and application of the citizens' rights provisions, and reiterated their commitment to ensuring continued correct implementation and application. The Independent Monitoring Authority and the EFTA Surveillance Authority also attended to give updates on their monitoring and complaints handling functions as required by the Separation Agreement, and to discuss their annual reports for 2021.

The Joint Committee adopted a Decision to amend Part I of Annex I of the Separation Agreement to reflect decisions taken by the EU's Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems. These decisions relate to the interpretation of the relevant social security coordination provisions, including on data processing and data exchange. They do not impact the rights provided for in the Separation Agreement. Copies of this Decision have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Joint Committee will meet at least annually, with Norway holding the next rotating chair. The next meeting is expected to take place in 2023. I commit to continuing to update Parliament following future meetings of the Joint Committee where Decisions are taken.

### **United Kingdom Debt Management Office: Business Plan**

[HLWS106]

**Baroness Penn:** My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (John Glen) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The United Kingdom Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the financial year 2022-23. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both houses and are available on the DMO's website, [www.dmo.gov.uk](http://www.dmo.gov.uk).

# Written Answers

Thursday, 16 June 2022

## Credit: Regulation

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to develop regulation for Buy Now, Pay Later schemes. [[HL743](#)]

**Baroness Penn:** The Government recognises that BNPL products pose several potential risks of consumer detriment, as set out in The Woolard Review into the unsecured credit market.

That is why on 2 February 2021, the Government announced its intention to regulate BNPL products in a proportionate manner.

The Government published a consultation on policy proposals for the regulation of BNPL on 21 October 2021, which closed on 6 January 2022.

The Government is now reviewing responses to this consultation and considering next steps and intends to publish a consultation response in the coming weeks.

## Evusheld

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Health and Social Care on 20 April (151279), what estimate they have made of when the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will complete the testing of Evusheld against Omicron sub-variants; and why this has taken longer to complete than in (1) the US, and (2) the EU. [[HL157](#)]

**Lord Kamall:** AstraZeneca commissioned the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to complete testing as part of studies into the effectiveness of Evusheld against Omicron variants. Initial data has been shared with AstraZeneca and testing continues for the Omicron variant BA.4. As timing of the results are dependent on a number of factors, we are currently unable to confirm the date of completion. AstraZeneca will review such data and determine whether further testing should be commissioned.

When undertaking testing, the UKHSA follows strict processes designed to ensure such treatments are effective. These processes may differ from regulations in other jurisdictions.

## Fuels: Excise Duties

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce fuel duty. [[HL687](#)]

**Baroness Penn:** At Spring Statement 2022 in response to fuel prices reaching record levels, the government announced a temporary 12-month cut to duty on petrol and diesel of 5p per litre.

This is the largest cash-terms cut across all fuel duty rates at once, ever, and is only the second time in 20 years that main rates of petrol and diesel have been cut. This cut represents savings for households and businesses worth around £2.4 billion in 2022-23.

All taxes, including fuel duty, remain under review.

## Internet: Safety

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have prepared a draft list of priority categories for "legal but harmful" content for (1) adults, and (2) children, which is due to be set out in secondary legislation under the proposed Online Safety Bill. [[HL668](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when companies in scope of the Online Safety Bill will be provided with a draft list of priority categories for "legal but harmful" content for (1) adults, and (2) children. [[HL669](#)]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Priority harmful content to children and adults will be set out in secondary legislation once the Secretary of State has been granted the relevant powers to make regulations for priority harmful content under the Bill.

Her Majesty's Government has a duty to consult Ofcom on the proposed priority categories of harmful content before designating them in secondary legislation.

Setting out the priority harms in secondary legislation will allow Her Majesty's Government to respond to changing risks to children and adults online, ensuring that new, currently unforeseen harms can be dealt with as they emerge.

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the definitions provided in the Online Safety Bill for (1) journalistic content, (2) content of democratic importance, and (3) news publisher content. [[HL670](#)]

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what technical feasibility assessment they have undertaken regarding the (1) journalistic, (2) news publisher, and (3) content of democratic importance, exemptions set out in the Online Safety Bill. [[HL671](#)]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Her Majesty's Government is confident that the protections for recognised news publishers, journalistic content, and content of democratic importance are technically feasible and that the Bill's definition of the relevant terms is appropriate.



Recognised news publishers' content will be exempted from platforms' new online safety duties. This means tech companies will be under no legal obligation to apply their new safety duties to that content. The criteria under which an organisation qualifies as a publisher are set in the Bill. When drafting these criteria, Her Majesty's Government has taken significant care to ensure established news publishers are captured, while limiting the opportunity for others to benefit.

Category 1 service providers will also need to have clear policies relating to their treatment of journalistic content and content of democratic importance, and to ensure these are enforced consistently. Ofcom will set out further details in codes of practice about how companies can comply with these duties.

## Honours

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is (1) the political affiliation, and (2) area of residence, for all living recipients of Companions of Honour, where known. [HL708]

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many honours, by each award level, were received in each region and nation of the UK in The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022; and what percentage of the population of each such region and nation that number represents. [HL709]

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many honours above OBE level were awarded to people who were (1) living in, or (2) working or providing service to, the South Yorkshire area at the time of their nomination for an honour in The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022. [HL710]

**Lord True:** There are currently 63 living recipients of the Companion of Honour. We do not collect the information requested on political affiliation, nor do we monitor areas of residence after an award is bestowed.

In supporting the levelling up agenda, Her Majesty's Government would like to see representation in the honours system from across the whole of the United Kingdom, reflecting the extraordinary contributions made across the country.

Data is collected using the county that the recipient gives as their correspondence address; this is usually their current home address and does not necessarily reflect their area of origin.

The percentage of BD22 recipients living in each region by level is attached.

The Government publishes honours transparency data broken down by both town/city and county. Data is collected using the county the recipient gives as their

correspondence address (usually their home address rather than their places of origin). This data relates only to the main Prime Minister's List and does not include data from the Defence List or the Overseas and International List, which are not administered by the Cabinet Office. The transparency data for the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022 can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-queens-birthday-honours-2022>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

data table [PQ HL708, HL709 and HL710 table only.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-07/HL708>

## Kate Josephs

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had any correspondence (1) with Ms Kate Josephs, former Director General of the Covid Task Force, since she left the role, or (2) with Sheffield City Council, regarding the Cabinet Office leaving party she attended on 17 December 2020; and if so, on what dates this correspondence took place. [HL736]

*Asked by Lord Scriven*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) Ms Kate Josephs, former Director General of the COVID-19 Taskforce, since she left the role in January 2021, and (2) Sheffield County Council, regarding the Cabinet Office leaving party Ms Josephs attended on 17 December 2020; and what date any communication took place. [HL840]

**Lord True:** It would not be appropriate to either confirm or deny whether the Cabinet Office has had any communications with, or in relation to, any individuals in order to preserve the confidentiality and integrity of investigation processes.

## Oxford-Cambridge Arc: Finance

*Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much infrastructure spending they have committed in relation to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (Ox-Cam Arc); and in what years such spending will take place, broken down by (1) rail, (2) schools, (3) hospitals, (4) housing, and (5) other categories. [HL712]

**Baroness Penn:** The Government recognises the importance of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc as a globally renowned hub of innovation, with businesses and universities that are leading the way in life sciences, space and green technologies. Businesses from these fields will benefit from this Government's investment in R&D, that will deliver £20bn by 2024-25 with an increase of £5bn over the Spending Review period.

This question has been interpreted as requesting details on spend associated with the OxCam Growth Programme.

In October 2021, the Government completed a 12-week public consultation gathering views to shape a vision for an Arc Spatial Framework. The results from this consultation are currently being considered and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will provide more information in due course.

### Parliament: Repairs and Maintenance

*Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask the Parliamentary Works Sponsor Body how much money they have spent so far on drawing up plans for the Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament. [HL725]

**Lord Best:** Since the creation of the Sponsor Body in April 2020 to the end of March 2022, the Sponsor Body and Delivery Authority spent an estimated £212 million on the Restoration and Renewal Programme. This includes costs for design work, surveys, preparation of the detailed and costed plan (also known as business case development), programme management, staffing the two organisations, and data and digital services. All of the spend to date has been in accordance with the Restoration and Renewal Programme remit to progress the work required under the Parliamentary Buildings (Restoration and Renewal) Act 2019.

A further £87 million of R&R funding for 2022/23 has been agreed by the Commissions of both Houses and the Parliamentary Works Estimates Commission.

### Parliamentary Estate: Fire Prevention

*Asked by Lord Norton of Louth*

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker how many times fire alarms have been activated on the Parliamentary Estate in each of the first five months of 2022. [HL655]

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** The number of times fire alarms have been activated on the Parliamentary Estate in the first five months of 2022 is as follows:

- January – 4.
- February – 2.
- March – 5.
- April – 6.
- May – 3.

### Privy Council

*Asked by Lord Blunkett*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 25 May (HL293) and the revised arrangements for an Accession Council, how many Privy Councillors were present at the last Accession Council to affirm the transition of the monarchy. [HL604]

**Lord True:** In 1952, Part I of the Accession Council was held on Wednesday 6th February 1952. There were 191 attendees, comprising some 165 Privy Counsellors, representatives of the Realms and the Commonwealth, and the City of London. Part II of the Accession Council was held on Friday the 8th February 1952, on the return of The Queen from Kenya, and attended by 175 Privy Counsellors.

### Public Sector: Procurement

*Asked by Lord Vaizey of Didcot*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of pre-market engagement in the procurement of technology by the Government; and what plans they have to publish that assessment. [HL845]

*Asked by Lord Vaizey of Didcot*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of contract awards made by public sector buyers in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, and (3) 2021, were preceded by pre-procurement market engagement processes. [HL846]

*Asked by Lord Vaizey of Didcot*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential of using commercial off-the-shelf software solutions as opposed to bespoke software solutions in the public sector. [HL847]

**Lord True:** Cabinet Office does not hold information on contracting authorities pre-market engagement activities or details of the percentage of contract awards that were preceded by pre-procurement market engagement processes.

Government already makes use of a range of commercial, off the shelf software solutions from vendors of all sizes. The [Technology Code of Practice](#) and Government's spend controls processes ensure that bespoke solutions are developed in an accessible, open and secure manner that can be shared and used across Government.

### Trade Agreements: South America

*Asked by Baroness Coussins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what provisions for the protection of human rights defenders are included in the United Kingdom–Andean Countries Trade Agreement; and what enforcement measures are in place. [HL716]

**Lord Grimstone of Boscobel:** Respect for democratic principles and fundamental human rights underpins the United Kingdom–Andean Countries Trade Agreement. The treaty allows for 'appropriate measures' to be taken by any member state 'in accordance with international law' where breaches occur. The agreement also includes a Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter, which aims to ensure that both Parties encourage high

levels of environmental and labour protection. This chapter provides for an annual TSD Sub-Committee, which is an opportunity for the UK to raise concerns with partner countries where we believe there have been violations of workers' rights or environmental commitments. The Sub-Committee last met in April 2022.

### **VAT: Electronic Government**

*Asked by Lord Vinson*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely impact of HM Revenue's 'Making Tax Digital' compulsory VAT scheme on the number of SME business that have (1) ceased trading, or (2) reduced turnover to below the VAT threshold. [HL690]

**Baroness Penn:** There is no evidence to suggest that businesses have either ceased trading or reduced their turnover to below the VAT threshold due to Making Tax Digital (MTD) for VAT.

Following the successful introduction of MTD for VAT-registered businesses with taxable turnover above the VAT threshold in April 2019, the Government has extended MTD for VAT to all other VAT-registered businesses from April 2022.

Independent research shows that businesses using MTD-compliant software for their VAT obligations are realising efficiency benefits and the resulting reduction in errors is leading to additional tax revenue.

### **Veterans: LGBT+ People**

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent progress they have made regarding their review into the treatment of LGBT veterans. [HL601]

*Asked by Baroness Barker*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what military representatives are participating in the review into the treatment of LGBT veterans by the Office for Veterans' Affairs. [HL602]

**Lord True:** Recently, significant work has been undertaken to identify the appropriate person to lead this important and high profile review. The Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Leo Docherty MP will announce the Chair shortly.

A military liaison officer has been assigned to the Review and the MoD Diversity and Inclusion Directorate is working to support the Review by coordinating pan-Defence engagement.

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