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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
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Earl Howe	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
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Lord Ashton of Hyde	Chief Whip
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Lord Bellamy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
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
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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, 20 June 2022

Antimicrobials: Evaluation and Purchase

[HLWS116]

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

The ability of bacteria - and other types of pathogen - to develop and propagate resistance to the available therapeutic drugs and medicines, such as antibiotics, used to treat them is a significant and growing threat. Alongside extensive efforts to tackle this threat, as set out in the Government's five-year National Action Plan, we have sought to reduce the need for antibiotics. This is being achieved through both effective infection prevention and control, and through careful stewardship of the antibiotics that we have at our disposal, by reducing inappropriate prescribing. It is also essential that we incentivise the development - by pharmaceutical companies - of new antimicrobials, which has historically been challenging. To address this challenge, we committed to develop and test a new purchasing model for antimicrobials that de-links payments for antibiotics from the volumes used.

As a result, NHS England and Improvement (NHSEI), the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) launched a joint project in July 2019 to test a "subscription-style" payment for two antibiotics, basing the annual payment on a NICE-led assessment of the value of the medicines, rather than on the volumes of drugs used. On 12 April 2022, NICE published guidance estimating the value of the two antibiotics to the NHS. This guidance informed negotiations between NHSEI and the two companies to agree payment levels in the "subscription-style" contracts.

I would like to inform the House that the contracts between NHSEI and the two pharmaceutical companies have now been signed. Payments to the companies for their antibiotics, Cefiderocol (manufactured by Shionogi) and Ceftazidime with Avibactam (manufactured by Pfizer), will start on 1 July 2022.

This world-leading project represents an important development in our approach to incentivising innovation in antimicrobial drugs and in our efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We will continue to build on this work to develop routine arrangements for the evaluation and purchase of new antimicrobials as they are developed. I will be writing to my counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to formally invite them to participate in these next steps, to ensure that the project can be adapted and scaled across the UK.

Maintaining momentum on our international advocacy and action on market incentives is crucial. We hope other

countries will offer similar incentives in their own domestic markets, so that collectively we can achieve a meaningful incentive for global investment in antimicrobials. This project is representative of our leading role in this area, aligning with the Government's vision for a Global Britain.

Correction to HLWS74

[HLWS111]

Lord Grimstone of Boscobel: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade (Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP) has today made the following statement:

The Government has, today, laid before Parliament a report on the Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement. The report is required under Section 42 of the Agriculture Act 2020, prior to the agreement being laid before Parliament for formal scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG).

The Government has always been clear that we will not compromise on the UK's high environmental protection, animal welfare and food safety standards in our trade negotiations. This report, which draws on independent advice from the Trade and Agriculture Commission[1], Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, confirms the Government's view that the UK-Australia FTA is consistent with the maintenance of UK statutory protections in these areas.

This report is intended to inform and support scrutiny of the UK-Australia agreement prior to its ratification and entry into force. The text of the UK-Australia agreement was published on 16th December 2021 and will be formally laid before Parliament for scrutiny under the provisions of CRaG in due course.

[1] TAC advice published on 13th April 2022 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-australia-fta-advice-from-trade-and-agriculture-commission>.

"Data: a new direction" Consultation: Government Response

[HLWS118]

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

On 17 June 2022, we published the Government response to the 'Data: A new direction' consultation document, and in the Queen's Speech on 10 May 2022 it was announced that a Data Reform Bill will be introduced in the third session of this Parliament.

Data is the driving force of modern economies and, by removing barriers to responsible data sharing and use, we aim to become the world's number one data destination: an open, welcoming and secure environment where companies from all over the world can innovate and grow, and where responsible data usage improves people's lives.

It is because we have left the EU that we have the opportunity to build an independent data protection regime that works in the UK's interests. We have the regulatory freedom to simplify some of the cumbersome parts of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and reduce the barriers of responsible data use.

The new regime will also maintain the fundamental data protection principles established by the UK GDPR. The Government remains committed to ensuring continued, high data-protection standards and public trust in data, both of which will continue to be at the heart of our new regime.

The consultation response sets out how we will create a new, flexible, independent regime under which the value of data can truly be maximised. By clarifying data-protection rules regarding research, we can give scientists the confidence to use data responsibly and effectively, meaning greater data-driven innovations.

We will remove some of the most prescriptive but unnecessary rules in UK GDPR, which organisations currently must follow to demonstrate compliance. This will reduce the burdens on businesses by giving them the flexibility to protect personal data in ways that work most effectively for their organisations and their clients. By reducing burdens, we can make businesses more efficient and more productive.

We will also use our repatriated 'adequacy' powers from the EU to remove inappropriate barriers to the flow of UK personal data overseas, so that we can support trade and scientific collaboration as well as national security and law enforcement cooperation.

We are also going to make sure that there is better enforcement of data protection and privacy breaches, and we will take firmer action against nuisance callers and make it easier to stop this predatory behaviour to begin with. We will also make sure that data can be used to empower people and improve their lives.

Our reforms will directly benefit the public - we will make it easier for public bodies to share data, making public healthcare, law enforcement and government services more effective.

The consultation response also sets out reforms to the Information Commissioner's Office - we will modernise its governance framework with an independent board and require it to take into account the impact of its activities on areas such as economic growth, innovation and competition. We will also make the ICO more accountable to the public and Parliament by setting out a range of Key Performance Indicators and other reporting requirements.

The consultation response recognises that political parties and elected representatives frequently need to process personal data for the purposes of democratic engagement. We intend to create a clearer legal basis for such processing to occur. The intent is to allow MPs, councillors and political parties to undertake democratic engagement that they have done for decades (such as opinion surveys of local residents or targeted letters to

constituents), but where GDPR has added unnecessary complexity and confusion. This builds on measures in the Data Protection Act 2018 which received broad cross-party support at the time.

The UK is firmly committed to maintaining high data protection standards, and we will continue to operate a high-quality regime that promotes growth and innovation and underpins the trustworthy use of data. EU adequacy decisions do not require an 'adequate' country to have the same rules, and our view is that reform of UK legislation on personal data will be compatible with maintaining free flow of personal data from Europe.

The reforms we have set out will create a new and independent data protection regime that will confer many benefits to people, businesses, and researchers, whilst maintaining high standards of personal data protection. The Government response to the consultation is available on gov.uk and I will also place a copy in the libraries of both Houses.

HGK Levy Reform Consultation

[HLWS115]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Today the Government is publishing a consultation on reforming the heavy goods vehicle (HGV) levy. The HGV levy has been suspended since 1 August 2020 to support the haulage sector and aid pandemic recovery efforts. Today's consultation seeks industry views on two ways in which the levy could be reformed when the suspension ends as planned on 31 July 2023.

Firstly, the Government is considering reforming the HGV levy so that it is more reflective of the environmental performance of the vehicle. The levy would be restructured to be based on the weight of the vehicle, as an indicative proxy for carbon dioxide emissions. If this reform were carried out, the majority of UK vehicles will pay less or the same than they did before the previous levy was suspended. The alternative would be to continue with the current structure and rates.

Secondly, the Government is minded to reform the levy liability for foreign HGVs, such that they pay only when driving on major roads. This is to clarify that the levy design is unambiguously in line with the Government's international obligations.

The consultation will be published on the Department for Transport website and will run for four weeks.

HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg: Crewe-Manchester

[HLWS119]

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

As set out in a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 6 June 2022, the government is today publishing a Supplement to the January 2022 update to the High Speed 2 (HS2) Crewe – Manchester Strategic

Outline Business Case (SOBC). This Supplement to the SOBC sets out the implications of removing the Golborne Link from the High Speed (Crewe – Manchester) Bill scheme.

The January 2022 update to the SOBC set out the importance of the proposed scheme in linking Manchester to the high-speed network, reducing journey times between the UK's biggest economic regions (the South East, Midlands, and North West) and generating much needed passenger and network capacity on the West Coast Mainline (WCML), the UK's busiest mixed rail use corridor. It also outlined the scheme's central role in rebalancing the UK economy by providing the platform for economic growth and regeneration in Manchester and the North West, and its importance as the strategic enabler for Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and the wider Integrated Rail Plan for the North and Midlands (IRP).

This scheme also included the Golborne Link, a proposed connection from the HS2 network near Hoo Green to the WCML just south of Wigan, aimed at increasing the number of HS2 services between England and Scotland. As announced on 6 June 2022, subject to the will of Parliament, the government no longer intends to seek powers to construct the Golborne Link as part of this Bill. As Sir Peter Hendy's Union Connectivity Review made clear the Golborne link might not resolve all the rail capacity constraints on the West Coast Mainline between Crewe and Preston. The Government will therefore take time to consider alternatives which deliver similar benefits to Scotland as the Golborne link, so long as these deliver for the taxpayer within the £96bn envelope allocated for the Integrated Rail Plan, and to understand the deliverability of the alternatives.

HS2 is an essential factor in achieving the transformative impact of the Government's £96 billion Integrated Rail Plan, connecting our major cities, including connections between the North and Midlands. With other elements of the IRP, it will encourage businesses to invest beyond London whilst retaining ready access to the capital. It will make it easier for people to find high-wage, high-skilled jobs without having to travel south. This will help drive productivity and growth, benefitting the whole country.

A copy of the Supplement to the Strategic Outline Business Case will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and made publicly accessible online.

Office for Nuclear Regulation: Corporate Plan 2022-23

[HLWS113]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Later today I will lay before this House the Office for Nuclear Regulation Corporate Plan 2022/2023. This document will also be published on the ONR website.

I can confirm, in accordance with Schedule 7, Section 25(3) of the Energy Act 2013, that there have been no exclusions to the published documents on the grounds of national security.

Restoring Your Railway Update

[HLWS117]

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

Today I am pleased to announce further development funding for 9 rail schemes under the Restoring Your Railway Fund. This brings communities in Yorkshire, Staffordshire, County Durham and beyond one step closer to being reconnected to the rail network, with the transformational levelling up opportunities for jobs, homes and education that public transport provides.

The Restoring Your Railway Fund is making substantial progress to restore previously closed rail lines: the £500 million commitment is supporting the development or delivery of over 45 schemes across England and Wales, and we have already reintroduced services to the Dartmoor Line between Okehampton and Exeter.

I am today announcing further funding for schemes that entered Restoring Your Railway as early-stage ideas, which have already been supported through the Fund to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case and will now be progressing further. I am also announcing funding for proposals at more advanced stages.

The 9 schemes receiving further funding with the potential to level up and reconnect communities are: the Barrow Hill line between Sheffield and Chesterfield; the Ivanhoe Line between Leicester and Burton on Trent; new stations at Meir in Staffordshire, Haxby in Yorkshire, Devizes in Wiltshire, Ferryhill in County Durham; Aldridge station and line upgrade in Walsall; reinstating the Fleetwood line; and the Mid Cornwall Metro scheme for services between Newquay and Falmouth.

More than 50 years since the railways were radically reshaped during the infamous Beeching cuts of the 1960s, when thousands of miles of both track and stations were closed, the Restoring Your Railway Fund is now focussed on developing and delivering the benefits of the schemes within its portfolio. If delivered, these lines and stations will make a real contribution to levelling up the country, reinvigorating high streets and breathing new life into previously cut off areas.

Alongside this announcement we are publishing a Restoring Your Railway fund update, which sets out progress on all schemes that have received funding and will be placed in the libraries of both Houses, as well as being publicly accessible online through the GOV.UK website.

UK Conformity Assessed Marking Regime: Support for Business

[HLWS112]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Minister for London and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour

Markets) (Paul Scully) has today made the following statement:

I am pleased to announce that the Government is going further to make it easier and cheaper for businesses to move to the new UKCA product regulation regime.

Our new UKCA regime gives us the chance to take control of the way products are regulated and ensure these rules work to the benefit of business and consumers in Great Britain. The UKCA marking will become mandatory for most goods which previously used the CE and reverse epsilon markings if they are first placed on the market in Great Britain after 31 December 2022.

The Government understands that moving to this new regime has meant changes for businesses. Whilst change is necessary, we want to take a pragmatic approach. We have been consulting with industry to understand their key concerns in the transition to the UKCA marking regime.

The Government wants to make it easier for businesses to comply with the changes so we will introduce four measures to further support businesses adopting UKCA. These measures are designed to reduce compliance burdens and prevent costs that could be passed on to consumers. These changes will apply to BEIS sectors requiring the UKCA marking, other departments will make related announcements on arrangements for their sectors as required in due course. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is making a UKCA announcement in conjunction with BEIS today, as indicated below.

These measures are as follows:

- 1) Government will reduce re-testing costs for UKCA certification, by allowing certificates provided by EU (European Union) conformity assessment bodies (CABs) issued before the end of this year to be used as a basis for UKCA marking certification (including a specific arrangement for construction products, via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). This will prevent duplication and immediate increased costs for businesses.
- 2) Government will make clear there is no need to re-test existing imported stock, as these products will be considered already placed on the Great Britain (GB) market. This will prevent the costly, and unnecessary re-labelling of existing stock for businesses.
- 3) Government will make clear that spare parts that repair or replace goods already on the GB market can meet the same requirements as the goods that they repair or replace. This will allow products and goods requiring spare parts to continue to be maintained.
- 4) Government will allow the UKCA marking and importer details to be added to products using a sticky label or on an accompanying document until 31 December 2025. This will allow business to adjust their product design to accommodate marking changes at a convenient and cost-effective time.

The Government intends to lay secondary legislation before the end of the calendar year to give effect to the changes for labelling and testing. Our guidance will be updated to reflect our changes to spare parts and existing stock.

These measures are being implemented to address the concerns we have heard through working closely with industry. Officials in the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, in collaboration with other departments, will continue to engage actively with industry and support their preparations ahead of the full introduction of UKCA rules at the end of 2022.

Women's Health Ambassador

[HLWS114]

Lord Kamall: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Patient Safety and Primary Care) (Maria Caulfield) has made the following Written Statement:

In December 2021 when we published 'Our Vision for the Women's Health Strategy for England', we announced that we would be appointing a Women's Health Ambassador.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Dame Lesley Regan DBE MD DSc FRCOG as the first ever Women's Health Ambassador for England.

The Ambassador will focus on raising the profile of women's health, increasing awareness of taboo topics and bringing a range of collaborative voices to implement the Women's Health Strategy. The Ambassador will develop networks across and outside government to champion women's health and break down stigmas which surround particular areas of women's health, such as the menopause, endometriosis and PCOS, and mental health and wellbeing.

We will also appoint a deputy Women's Health Ambassador to maximise the positive impacts of the role. The deputy ambassador will work collaboratively with the Women's Health Ambassador to help increase awareness and build relationships with community groups and women and girls across the country.

Dame Lesley Regan is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Imperial College's St Mary's Hospital Campus, and Honorary Consultant in Gynaecology at the Imperial College NHS Trust. She is also Honorary Secretary of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and the Immediate Past President (2016-2019) of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), only the second woman to ever hold this role and the first in 64 years. As President of the RCOG, she oversaw the publication of the ground-breaking *Better For Women* report, the findings and recommendations of which have informed the development of our Women's Health Strategy.

When we set about recruiting the Women's Health Ambassador, we heard from many highly qualified

candidates who were interested in the role. I am very grateful for their interest in the role.

Next steps on the Women's Health Strategy

The Women's Health Strategy will set out an ambitious and positive new agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of women across England and reduce

disparities, focusing both on the priority healthcare issues for women and key thematic priorities across the life course. I look forward to announcing the publication of the new Women's Health Strategy shortly and to working with the new Women's Health Ambassador to deliver real change for women in England.

Written Answers

Monday, 20 June 2022

Afghanistan: Refugees

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 26 May (HL Deb col 1011) regarding evacuation from Afghanistan, how many evacuations and resettlements from Afghanistan to the UK have occurred; how many people are awaiting resettlement in camps in Pakistan and Iran; how many of these people are from at-risk minority groups; and what permanent resettlement assistance is being provided by other countries, including those in the Gulf and Central Asia. [HL600]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: During and since the evacuation from Afghanistan in August last year, around 20,000 people have been brought to safety, including British Nationals and their families, Afghans who loyally served the UK and others identified as particularly at risk. According to UNHCR there are currently just over 2 million registered refugees from Afghanistan in Pakistan and Iran. Very few of these refugees are eligible to come to the UK. Under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, UNHCR can refer some Afghan refugees to the UK for resettlement. There are currently over 800 Afghan citizens assessed as provisionally eligible to come to the UK who the Government is supporting in third countries while they await clearance to come to the UK. We do not collect comprehensive data on the minority status of eligible individuals. The Government is grateful to countries providing shelter for refugees and assisting the UK in helping eligible Afghans come to the UK.

Aircraft Carriers: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Asked by *Lord West of Spithead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK will be able to deploy a carrier with its (1) designated, and (2) planned for, load of 36 F-35B UK aircraft, plus helicopters. [HL693]

Baroness Goldie: The composition and size of the embarked air group in a deploying Queen Elizabeth Class (QEC) carrier will be tailored to meet the operational requirement.

The QEC carriers have been designed to be able to embark 40 aircraft, a mix of fixed wing and rotary wing.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of alcohol on health inequalities; and what steps they are taking to reduce

alcohol's role as a significant driver of health inequalities. [HL621]

Lord Kamall: Individuals from lower socioeconomic groups are more likely to experience greater levels of alcohol-related harm compared to higher socioeconomic groups, including alcohol-related hospital admissions and deaths. Through the 10-year drug strategy, the Government has invested £532 million into rebuilding local authority commissioned substance misuse treatment services in England. All local areas will receive additional funds through a phased approach according to need, with 50 of the most deprived areas receiving a greater share of the funding in 2022/23. As part of the NHS Long Term Plan, we have invested £27 million to establish specialist Alcohol Care Teams in the 25% of hospitals with the highest rates of alcohol-mortality and deprivation.

Since 2020/21, the Government has also provided £50.4 million to provide substance misuse treatment services for people sleeping rough through the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant. The Government will provide additional investment of up to £186.5 million during the current Spending Review period, including £15 million announced through the cross-Government drugs strategy.

Asylum: Rwanda

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the transfer of asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda could undermine efforts to establish bilateral return and readmission agreements with Council of Europe member states. [HL610]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We remain fully committed to the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda. Any person who has arrived in the UK illegally, or by dangerous or unnecessary methods from safe countries since 1 January 2022, will be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

The Joint Political Declaration between the EU and UK agreed in December 2020 noted the UK's intention to engage in bilateral discussions with the most concerned Member States to discuss suitable practical arrangements, including on asylum and illegal migration. These discussions are continuing and the partnership with Rwanda does not change this.

We are determined to send a clear signal that it is unacceptable for individuals to travel through multiple safe countries to claim asylum in the UK. Those who fear persecution should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – this is the fastest route to safety.

Aviation: Migrant Workers

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to give EU aviation workers special visas. [HL688]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our immigration system is based on judging people by their skills and talents, not where their passport is from, such a proposal would be in conflict with this so will not be considered. We note similar issues with recruitment are being reported at Airports within the EU, which indicate this would also be an ineffective approach compared to focusing on other issues affecting recruitment in the sector, including pay and conditions.

Operational matters relating to airport operations should be referred to the Department for Transport.

British Nationality: Children

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 26 May (HLWS61), what steps they are taking to ensure that all local authorities are made aware of the fee exception. [HL637]

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 26 May (HLWS61), whether and when they will publish their assessment of children's best interests in relation to children's statutory rights to British citizenship that underpins the review fees. [HL638]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Local Authorities were notified of the introduction of a fee exception in the Local Government Bulletin issued on 27 May by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

The Home Office is continuing to reach out to a wide range of organisations who have an interest in the fee exception and waiver to notify them of their introduction.

There are no plans to publish the assessment of the children's best interests in relation to the child registration fee. The Written Statement provided a summary of the conclusions of that assessment, outlining why the Home Office has opted for the specific approach of a waiver and exception.

Cash Dispensing

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Penn on 26 May, what steps are they taking to ensure that banks do not withdraw ATMs before the proposed powers in the Financial Services and Markets Bill come into effect. [HL606]

Asked by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with retail banks about the importance of ATMs to communities; and what responses they have received from the retail banking sector, if any. [HL607]

Baroness Penn: As the Noble Lord is aware, the Government has confirmed that it will legislate to protect access to cash as part of the Financial Services and Markets Bill.

Further to the answer given on 26 May, I would also highlight that the FCA published guidance in September 2020 setting out its expectations of firms when they are deciding to reduce their physical branches or the number of free-to-use ATMs. On 23 February 2022, the FCA published best practice feedback for firms that are intending to close bank branches or ATMs to give firms greater clarity on FCA expectations with regards to the quality of analysis and consideration of customer needs. The FCA also shared areas that it expects to see improvements in to ensure closure decisions are taken in a way that treats customers fairly.

With regards to engagement, Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. Details of ministerial and permanent secretary meetings with external organisations on departmental business are published on a quarterly basis and are available on the gov.uk website.

Coronavirus: Drugs

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget they have set for the purchase of new Antiviral or Monoclonal Antibody drug treatments for COVID-19, including (1) those under current review like Evusheld, and (2) those under future review by the COVID-19 Antivirals and Therapeutics Taskforce; and if these should prove efficacious in the protection of immunosuppressed patients, whether this funding will be sufficient to meet current supply needs. [HL651]

Lord Kamall: There is currently no funding allocated for these treatments. Funding for additional procurement of novel treatments is considered on a case-by-case basis, as guided by clinical need and subject to business cases and due process.

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering the purchase of the Monoclonal Antibody drug Bebtelovimab; and other than Evusheld, whether they have any similar drugs under consideration. [HL652]

Lord Kamall: The Antivirals and Therapeutics Taskforce is working with the RAPID C-19 Collaborative to review clinical trials data for COVID-19 treatments. Bebtelovimab and other monoclonal antibodies are being reviewed as part of this process. However, Bebtelovimab has not received regulatory approval in the United Kingdom and therefore is not currently being considered for procurement.

Asked by **Lord Mendelsohn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any delay in purchasing drugs such as Evusheld or Beblitovimab is because of budget limitations; and whether they are will now allocate funding to purchase these new treatments. [HL653]

Lord Kamall: COVID-19 treatments must be effective against the currently circulating variants in the United Kingdom and be granted marketing authorisation prior to procurement. Evusheld was granted conditional marketing authorisation in March 2022. However, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency raised uncertainty on the dosage required for protection against the Omicron variant. The UK Health Security Agency is currently undertaking further testing on Evusheld's effectiveness against Omicron. While the data for Beblitovimab shows efficacy against the Omicron variants currently circulating, the treatment has not received marketing authorisation in the UK.

There is currently no funding allocated for these treatments. However, funding for additional procurement of novel treatments is considered on a case-by-case basis, as guided by clinical need and subject to business cases and due process.

Cycling and Walking: Urban Areas

Asked by **Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they used to support the claim made in their Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, published on 19 October 2021, that 42 per cent of journeys in towns and cities were made by cycling and walking in 2019. [HL636]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The data comes from the National Travel Survey: an annual, nationally representative survey which measures how people travel across England. The figure was based on analysis of the proportion of short trips (that is, those under 5 miles) that were taken across town and city settlements, as classified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Females

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women have been detained at the Derwentside immigration removal centre since it opened on 28 December 2021. [HL615]

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women have been released into the community from the Derwentside immigration removal centre since it opened on 28 December 2021; and what support has

been provided to help them access suitable accommodation. [HL616]

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women have been deported from the UK after residing at the Derwentside immigration removal centre. [HL617]

Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Durham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many in-person legal visits have taken place at Derwentside immigration removal centre since women were first detained there. [HL618]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. This includes data on people:

- Entering detention by initial place of detention in table Det_02a of the 'Detention summary tables' (attached).
- Leaving detention by last place of detention published in the table Det_04c of the 'Detention summary table's' and by reason for leaving detention (attached).
- Det_D03 of the 'detention detailed datasets'. (attached)
- In detention by current place of detention in table Det_03a of the 'Detention summary tables'. (attached).

Data on those entering detention, by place of detention, relate to the place of initial detention. Data on 'in detention' refers to the number of people in detention at the end of the period. An individual who moves from one part of the detention estate to another will not be counted as entering any subsequent place of detention. Last place of detention does not show where an individual spent their time in detention. In some cases, an individual may have spent a period of time detained elsewhere before being moved to their last place of detention.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can make an application for support and accommodation whilst their application for asylum is being considered. All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help, where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services, and they can get information about how to obtain further support.

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.

At Derwentside IRC there has been 6 in-person legal visits between 28 December 2021 and 7 June 2022. Legal visits can take place from 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 Answer includes the following attached material:

Detention summary tables [detention-summary-mar-2022-tables.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL615>

Education: Pay

Asked by *Baroness Blower*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what comparative assessment they have made of the levels of pay of education staff (1) working in prisons, and (2) not working in prisons. [HL756]

Lord Bellamy: I refer the noble Lady to the answer given to the noble Lord, Lord Jones of Cheltenham, on 26 May 2022 (UIN: HL205).

Energy Bills Rebate

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Contracts for Difference Scheme will contribute to the Energy Bill Support Scheme in its first year of operation. [HL633]

Lord Callanan: Funding for the Energy Bills Support Scheme is provided by HM Treasury. It is not provided by the Contracts for Difference scheme, which is the Government's primary method for supporting new low-carbon electricity generation projects in Great Britain.

Energy Transition Council

Asked by *Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Energy Transition Council has met since COP26; and if so, which nations attended. [HL658]

Lord Callanan: The Energy Transition Council (ETC) met on Tuesday 24 May 2022, for its fifth Ministerial dialogue, chaired by the UK. Egypt, Kenya, Bangladesh,

Nigeria, Indonesia, Morocco, Laos PDR, Philippines and Germany were represented at Ministerial and senior official level.

Asked by *Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Energy Transition Council has made towards its objectives. [HL659]

Lord Callanan: The Energy Transition Council's objective is to support countries to accelerate their clean energy transition, including through national and Ministerial dialogues. The Council has mobilised assistance in the eleven Energy Transition Council partner countries including through its Rapid Response Facility, which is already responding to over twenty requests, with additional requests in the pipeline for 2022. As a result of these efforts, the Government has seen partner countries commit to raising ambition in their clean energy transition, including through declarations at the COP26 Summit in Glasgow.

Asked by *Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to promote wider membership of the Energy Transition Council, in particular to include more African nations. [HL660]

Lord Callanan: The Energy Transition Council currently works with eleven developing partner countries across Asia and Africa, including Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, and Kenya to accelerate their clean energy transitions. The Council's mandate will continue to 2025, supported by a strategic partnership with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, which will allow for the expansion of the Council's work and for wider membership, including from African nations.

Eritrea: Human Rights

Asked by *Baroness Goudie*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will campaign for the adoption of a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council's 50th session that (1) extends the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, (2) describes and condemns human rights violations in Eritrea, and (3) sets benchmarks for improvement. [HL622]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Eritrea remains a Human Rights Priority Country for the UK. As in previous years, we will work with likeminded partners - particularly the EU as penholders of the resolution - to ensure the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea is extended at the upcoming 50th session of the Human Rights Council via a robust and credible resolution. We fully support the work of the Special Rapporteur and welcome both his report and his establishment of a set of human rights benchmarks for Eritrea to meet in order to show improvement.

At the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur the UK urged Eritrea to prioritise National Service reform; release all those in arbitrary detention; guarantee freedom of religion or belief for all faiths; and protect freedom of expression. We also continue to call on the Government of Eritrea to 1) allow the Special Rapporteur to visit Eritrea and cooperate fully with his mandate, 2) engage and cooperate fully with the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts in Ethiopia, established by the Human Rights Council at the 33rd Special Session on 17 December 2021 to investigate human rights violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict in Ethiopia, and 3) engage constructively with the recommendations of the 3 November 2021 UN-Ethiopian Human Rights Commission joint investigation report.

Food

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish a new Food Strategy. [HL509]

Lord Benyon: We published the Government food strategy on Monday 13 June, setting out a plan to transform our food system to ensure it is fit for the future.

The Government food strategy is available here: [Government food strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and is also attached to this answer.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Government food strategy [government-food-strategy.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-05-24/HL509>

Food: Pesticides

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to (1) reduce, or (2) end, the exposure of UK consumers to pesticides in food. [HL566]

Lord Benyon: The UK is a world leader in developing greener farming practices and upholds the highest standards of environmental and health protection. Our pesticides regulations set strict controls on the amounts of pesticide residues that are permitted in food to ensure the safety of consumers.

In Great Britain, regulations require the setting of a maximum residue level (MRL), which is the maximum concentration of a pesticide residue in or on food or feed that is legally tolerated. We have an ongoing monitoring programme to ensure that food complies with the statutory MRLs allowed. MRLs are always set below, and usually well below, the level considered to be safe for consumers.

Defra's National Action Plan for Sustainable Use of Pesticides, due to be published later this year, will set out proposals to minimise the risks and impacts of pesticides

to human health and the environment. In parallel, we are progressing existing policies and work areas to reduce pesticide use, such as our plan for the introduction of the Integrated Pest Management standard into the Sustainable Farming Incentives scheme in 2023.

Future Combat Air System

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Tempest squadrons (1) will be flown by the Royal Air Force, and (2) will have Royal Air Force squadron designations. [HL692]

Baroness Goldie: We are developing concepts for a Future Combat Air System (FCAS), to be operated by the RAF. FCAS is intended to replace the capabilities provided by our Typhoon aircraft, as set out in the Integrated Review. As such, any decisions on squadron designations will not need to be taken until later in the next decade.

Hereditary Angioedema: Diagnosis and Medical Treatments

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in England have been diagnosed with and are receiving treatment for hereditary angioedema. [HL649]

Lord Kamall: The information requested is not held centrally. However, a survey of centres providing care for people with hereditary angioedema (HAE) in the last three years conducted by the HAE community found that there were approximately 1,150 patients in England, with 90% of centres responding.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service: ICT

Asked by Baroness Blower

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the effect of the HM Courts and Tribunal Service Common Platform roll-out on (1) the delivery of justice, and (2) staff morale. [HL754]

Lord Bellamy: I refer the noble Lady to the answer given to PQ HL203 on 26 May 2022.

Home Education: Registration

Asked by Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children they estimate will be included in the registers proposed under clause 48 of the Schools Bill [HL]. [HL634]

Baroness Barran: The proposed Children Not In School registers are intended to help with the identification of children being educated otherwise than at

school and, in particular, those who are currently children missing education.

At present, there is no accurate picture of how many of these children there are at a local or national level. The introduction of the registers should, however, help to address this.

In the latest Association of Directors of Children's Services annual survey (in 2021), they estimated that approximately 81,000 children across all 152 local authorities in England were electively home-educated on school census day, 7 October 2021. The department would therefore anticipate, at least, similar numbers of children coming within scope of the registers.

House of Lords: Standing Orders

Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean

To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker, further to the Written Answer by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on 14 June (HL810), whether he will place a marked up copy of the new Companion to the Standing Orders in the Library of the House highlighting the changes proposed to date since the last edition. [HL979]

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Following the debate on Thursday 16 June I approved the publication of the complete draft text of the new edition of the Companion to the Standing Orders. This can be viewed at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/house-of-lords-publications/rules-and-guides-for-business/companion-to-the-standing-orders/>. I have also instructed staff to place copies of all papers considered by the Procedure and Privileges Committee while preparing the latest edition in the Library of the House.

Immigration: Appeals

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average time between a judgment being made by the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and implementation of that judgment by the Home Office, in each of the past five years. [HL656]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The requested information cannot be accurately extracted from our internal systems. To provide this information would require a manual trawl of successful appeals and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Where an appeal has been allowed in favour of the appellant, and is not subject to onward appeal, we take all reasonable steps to implement the allowed appeal in a timely manner.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 30

May (HL275), whether they have had discussions with the government of Israel regarding the international law implications of evictions of Palestinian residents from Masafer Yatta; and if they have not, whether they will now do so. [HL683]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As previously stated, the UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they still plan to form four F-35B squadrons; and if so, how many of those will have Royal Air Force squadron designation and how many will have Royal Navy squadron designation. [HL691]

Baroness Goldie: The Lightning Force will be formed of five Squadrons, jointly crewed by Royal Navy and RAF personnel. Three Squadrons have been designated RAF (617 (The Dambusters) Sqn, 207 Sqn (Operational Conversion Unit, and 17 Sqn (Test & Evaluation)), and one Royal Navy (809 Naval Air Sqn). The final one has yet to be considered for a Squadron designation.

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential for (1) speeding up delivery of F-35Bs, and (2) training more (a) pilots, and (b) ground crew. [HL695]

Baroness Goldie: I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave to him on 30 March 2022 to Question HL7316.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft Procurement [HL7316 - Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft Procurement.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL695>

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft: Procurement

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government when is the delivery date for the last of the 48 jets presently on order. [HL694]

Baroness Goldie: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Jeremy Quin) in the House of Commons on 18 May 2022 to Question 1103 to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (Mr Healey).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft Procurement [1103 - Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft Procurement.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL694>

Asked by **Lord West of Spithead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the 26 aircraft in the second tranche of F-35B will be ordered; and when the last is forecasted to be delivered. [HL696]

Baroness Goldie: I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence Procurement (Jeremy Quin) in the House of Commons on 19 May 2022 to Question 1104 to the right hon. Member for Wentworth and Dearne (Mr Healey).

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft Procurement [1104 - Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL696>

Judiciary: Training

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the specialist digital training on domestic abuse launched by the Judicial College in October 2021 for all family judges, including Recorders and Deputy District Judges, is compulsory; and if so, how often family judges must take that training. [HL719]

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the rollout of new digital domestic abuse training for magistrates and legal advisers that began in October 2021 by the Judicial College is complete; whether it is compulsory; and if so, how often (1) magistrates, and (2) legal advisers, must take that training. [HL720]

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the Judicial College have made with the rollout of new training to address the (1) attitudinal, and (2) behavioural, issues raised in (a) recent caselaw, (b) the Ministry of Justice report Assessing Risk of Harm to Children and Parents in Private Law Children Cases, published June 2020, and (c) the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which took effect in April. [HL721]

Asked by **Baroness Helic**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any (1) organisations, or (2) individuals, outside the Judicial College (a) were, or (b) are, involved in the (i) development, or (ii) delivery, of training on domestic abuse for judges and magistrates. [HL722]

Lord Bellamy: To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice, the Senior President of Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively. These responsibilities are exercised through the Judicial College.

I understand that the digital training on domestic abuse launched in October 2021 is compulsory training for family judges, magistrates and legal advisers for the 2022-23 training year.

New training that addresses the attitudinal and behavioural issues raised in recent caselaw, the Ministry of Justice's Harm Report and the Domestic Abuse Act, was launched in April 2022 and forms a substantial part of compulsory continuation training for family and civil judges.

The judiciary, supported by professional staff in the Judicial College, are responsible for the design, content, and delivery of judicial training. In developing domestic abuse training, the College drew on external expertise and resources as appropriate. The training programme and training requirements are reviewed regularly.

Manufacturing Industries: Electricity

Asked by **Lord Taylor of Warwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make (1) steelmakers, and (2) other industrial manufacturers, exempt from network charges to ensure continued production. [HL686]

Lord Callanan: As set out in the British Energy Security Strategy, the Government recognises that UK industrial electricity prices are higher than those of other countries. The Government committed to extend the EII Compensation Scheme for a further 3 years and intend to increase the aid intensity to up to 100% (1.5% of GVA). The Government is also considering a range of other measures which might be able to support these businesses.

Medical Treatments

Asked by **Baroness Masham of Ilton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which treatments NHS England's Clinical Priorities Advisory Group will be considering for prioritisation at its next meeting. [HL645]

Lord Kamall: The propositions for potential consideration at the Clinical Priorities Advisory Group prioritisation meeting are undergoing the final stages of development. The final agenda, including which treatments will be considered for prioritisation, has yet to be determined. Stakeholders will be informed ahead of the planned meeting in July.

Migrants and Refugees

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what incentives they will provide to (1) local government, and (2) private operators, to improve the quality of provision for refugees and migrants. [HL612]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government provides funding to enable local authorities, schools, health partners and Strategic Migration Partnerships to provide vulnerable refugees with a safe environment in which to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into society. The support that we provide includes language training, skills development and work placements to help integration into UK society.

We expect the highest standards from our asylum accommodation providers, our Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC) have a robust performance management system, against which providers are expected to deliver.

Ministry of Defence and Northern Ireland Office: Civil Proceedings

Asked by *Baroness Hoey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many new civil suits against (1) the Northern Ireland Office, and (2) the Ministry of Defence, relating to the Northern Ireland Troubles were filed in the Northern Ireland courts in the week ending 21 May. [HL626]

Lord Caine: The Northern Ireland Office has contacted the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) who are the relevant body. NICTS stated that cases are not categorised on receipt and as such they are unable to provide figures on the number of civil claims filed relating to the Northern Ireland Troubles in the week ending 21 May.

I can however confirm that four Writs relating to the Northern Ireland Troubles and filed in the period in question have been served on the Northern Ireland Office to date.

The Northern Ireland Office does not hold information on the number of Writs served on others (including other Government departments).

Nicolas Maduro

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to assist the International Criminal Court to ensure the Rome Statute is upheld with regards to the cases against Nicolas Maduro. [HL674]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK respects the independence of the International Criminal Court (ICC). As an ICC State Party, the UK can provide assistance in response to requests for assistance or cooperation from the Court pursuant to Part 9 of the

Rome Statute. However, we have not yet received any such requests in relation to this situation.

Asked by *Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase sanctions on individuals associated with Nicolas Maduro. [HL676]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: UK sanctions are helping to encourage democratic change by keeping pressure on the illegitimate Maduro regime, targeting illicit finance, and calling out human rights abuses. We do not speculate on future listings.

Northern Ireland Protocol

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which (1) Heads of State, (2) Prime Ministers, and (3) Presidents, have written to the Foreign Secretary about the Government's proposal to disapply certain parts of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. [HL667]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Foreign Secretary said in her statement to the House on 17 May, the UK has been in discussions with the EU for 18 months to find a negotiated solution that will deliver on the objectives of the Protocol. In recent months, the Foreign Secretary and FCDO ministers have discussed our shared response to Russia/Ukraine, building closer economic and security relations as well as UK concerns with the NIP with EU Member States' governments. Those exchanges continue.

Odeh Mohammad Odeh Sadaqa

Asked by *Baroness Sheehan*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel, if any, about the reported fatal shooting of Odeh Mohammad Odeh Sadaqa by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. [HL681]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise the issue of the high numbers of Palestinians killed and injured by Israeli Defense Forces in the West Bank and Gaza with the Israeli authorities, encouraging them to carry out swift, transparent and thorough investigations. We continue to stress the importance of the Israeli security forces providing appropriate protection to the Palestinian civilian population, particularly the need to protect children, and urge restraint in the use of live fire.

Passports: South Africa

Asked by *Lord Boateng*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received any representations from (1) Ryanair, or (2) any other interested parties, concerning the compatibility of that airline's requirement for South African passport holders to take an Afrikaans language

test, with (a) entry requirements, and (b) anti-discrimination legislation. [HL605]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The recent language test requirement for passengers travelling with Ryanair is not a UK Government requirement. The FCDO's Post in South Africa has confirmed this via its social media channels and has been in touch with South Africa's Department for International Relations and Cooperation. My officials have engaged with Ryanair on this matter and they have since confirmed that the language test is no longer in use.

Payment Exception Service

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the new Payment Exception Service for those who can no longer receive payment via the Post Office card. [HL623]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Payment Exception Service is not actively promoted. The department policy is to pay claimants and pension recipients directly into a transactional account of their choice such as a bank account, building society account, credit union account, internet-based account, or a basic bank account.

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have signed up to the Payment Exception Service. [HL624]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department can confirm that there were 68,546 active Payment Exception Service records at the end of April. These are records that received a payment during April.

Payment Exception Service: Telephone Services

Asked by Baroness Hoey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average time for calls to be answered by the Payment Exception Service helpline since the beginning of this year; and what is the target time for answering calls to the Payment Exception Service helpline. [HL625]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The average time for calls to be answered is 10:32 minutes. This average is taken from calls received by the helpline between January until end of April. The latest in month average for April was 6:52 minutes.

The Payment Exception Service helpline is managed by a supplier who do not contractually have a call target time, however each month the customer response times are reviewed taking into account both the nature of the customer call and ways to improve responses for customers.

Peers

Asked by Lord Carlile of Berriew

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward legislation to enable the removal of peerages from those who have been convicted of and imprisoned for serious criminal offences. [HL608]

Lord True: Legislation and Standing Orders provide for the expulsion of peers from the House of Lords who are imprisoned for serious offences. Ultimately, matters relating to the expulsion of a peer is for the House of Lords rather than the Government.

Nobody is under any obligation to address convicted criminals for serious offences by their title.

Whilst Peers may voluntarily stop using their peerage titles, there is currently no formal mechanism for revoking their titles, which would require bespoke primary legislation. The Government currently has no plans to bring forward such legislation.

Power Failures

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency plans they have in place in the event of energy blackouts in the UK in the forthcoming winter. [HL689]

Lord Callanan: Great Britain has one of the most reliable energy systems in the world.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy works closely with network operators, the regulator Ofgem and other stakeholders to ensure that the appropriate technical measures are able to be deployed throughout the year, to ensure the integrity of the energy system.

Prison Officers

Asked by Baroness Blower

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent estimate they have made of the levels of (1) retention, and (2) cumulative experience, of prison officers. [HL755]

Lord Bellamy: HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) does not have a standard definition of 'retention rates', however we do publish information on leaving rates which can be used as a proxy. The leaving rate is the number of staff who have left the department in the previous 12 months divided by the average number of staff in post over the same period.

In the 12 months to 31 March 2022, the leaving rate for Band 3 Prison Officers, Band 4 Supervising Officers/Prison Officer specialists and Band 5 Custodial Managers was 14.5%.

Band 3 to 5 covers all operational grades including all Prison Officers.

As at 31 March 2022, there were 22,002 FTE band 3-5 prison officers in post who together held a cumulative length of service of 238,195 years. In terms of headcount, there are 22,972 prison officers and so this gives an average of 10.4 years per prison officer.

A full breakdown of prison officer numbers by length of service is published in Table 4 of HMPPS workforce Statistics bulletin, the March 2022 publication is available at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/her-majestys-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-march-2022>. Figures have been reproduced below.

Table 1: HMPPS staff by length of service, for Band 3-5 Prison Officers as at 31 March 2022

(Full Time Equivalent)

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Completed years of service</i>	<i>31-Mar-2022</i>
Band 3-5 Officers	0	3,272
	1	1,715
	2	1,432
	3	2,522
	4	2,425
	5-9	2,581
	10-14	1,639
	15-19	2,670
	20-24	1,344
	25-29	1,131
30+	1,272	
Total		22,002

Prisoners: Females

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether their policy of housing of transgender women prisoners in female prisons takes sufficient account of the interests of female prisoners. [HL643]

Lord Bellamy: The interests of other prisoners are considered in every decision about where to allocate transgender prisoners. As set out in the 'Care and management of individuals who are transgender' Policy Framework, any decision must include a rigorous assessment of any risk of harm which the transgender individual may present to others, as well as any risk to the transgender individual of self-harm and/or harm from others.

We are reviewing this framework currently, and as part of this process have consulted with various groups to assess the effectiveness of its implementation. We will be

updating on the outcomes of this review once it has concluded later this year.

Probate

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the time taken to issue grants of probate. [HL663]

Lord Bellamy: Average waiting times for probate grants, from July 2019 to December 2021, are published on gov.uk via Family Court Statistics Quarterly (Table 25) and shown on the attached table:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-court-statistics-quarterly>.

Despite the unprecedented challenges faced by the Probate Service during the Covid-19 pandemic, and as a result of HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) increasing resources to meet demand, the average length of time taken for a grant of probate following receipt of the documents required has been maintained at between four and seven weeks.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

HL663 Table 1 [2022-06-20 HL663 Table 1.xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL663>

Refugees: Ukraine

Asked by The Earl of Dundee

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees from Ukraine they estimate will have come to the UK by the end of 2022; and what public and private partnerships they have encouraged to provide (1) homes, (2) apprenticeships, (3) jobs, and (4) school education, to such refugees. [HL613]

Lord Harrington of Watford: The Homes for Ukraine is an uncapped humanitarian sponsorship pathway, a route to the UK for Ukrainians who may not have family ties here but are matched with individuals who can provide accommodation for at least six months.

Data on arrivals can be found (attached) via www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2.

Guidance about the various support mechanisms and full access to public services including healthcare, education, work and benefits etc. can be found (attached) via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions#sponsors>.

and (attached) www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#role-of-councils.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme relies on close working between government, local government, the voluntary sector, and faith/Ukrainian representative organisations. We have been engaging with local government and other partners through a number of different conversations and working groups to date.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Frequently Asked questions [HL613 - Homes for Ukraine scheme_ frequently asked questions - GOV.UK.pdf]

Guidance for council [HL613 - Homes for Ukraine_ guidance for councils - GOV.UK.pdf]

Ukraine family and sponsorship scheme [HL613 - Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa data - GOV.UK.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL613>

Russia: Freezing of Assets

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 30 May (HL266), what assessment they have made of whether frozen Russian assets released by a licence from the Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation are likely to be redeployed for (1) humanitarian, and (2) reconstruction, purposes, in eastern Europe including Ukraine. [HL661]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: An asset freeze requires that all funds and economic resources belonging to, held or controlled by a designated person are frozen immediately by the person in possession or control of them. The release of frozen assets may be legally granted with a licence from the Treasury's Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) under specific circumstances and for specific purposes, as set out in the regulations. 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.

Ryanair

Asked by *Lord Oates*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to Ryanair about that company's practice of requiring South African nationals to fill in questionnaires in Afrikaans before boarding flights in the UK. [HL657]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The recent language test requirement for passengers travelling with Ryanair was not a UK Government requirement. My officials have engaged with Ryanair on this matter and they have since confirmed that the language test is no longer in use.

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require schools to implement anti-racist policies. [HL685]

Baroness Barran: There is no place for racism in our education system and schools have an important role in preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, by supporting them to understand the society in which they grow up in and teaching about respect for other people and difference.

The department has no plans to place specific requirements on schools, but we expect them to take steps to tackle racist and discriminatory attitudes or incidents and condemn racism within the school and wider society. Challenging intolerant, racist or discriminatory views, where these are shared at school, should be seen as part of schools' wider anti-bullying and safeguarding duties.

Further to this, relationships education is now compulsory in all schools and the relationships, sex and health education curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference.

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the act. State-funded schools are also subject to the public sector equality duty. The department has published guidance for schools to help them comply with their duties, which is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>.

Ukraine: Cereals

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with (1) the government of the United States, and (2) the EU, to encourage the government of Russia to re-open shipping lanes in the Black Sea to allow for Ukrainian grain to be exported. [HL678]

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are offering to Ukraine to increase its (1) land, or (2) river-based, exporting infrastructure to assist in getting grain out of that country. [HL679]

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are offering the EU as they attempt to institute solidarity lanes and ease (1) export, and (2) import, routes for Ukraine. [HL680]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated one of the most severe food and energy crises in recent history. Russia bears responsibility for preventing Ukraine from

exporting its food and playing its role as the breadbasket of the world. Russia's bombardment of cities and infrastructure across Ukraine, its blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports and its attacks on farmers and their farms have crippled Ukraine's ability to export its produce. It is Putin's responsibility to lift this blockade. We are working with Ukraine, the UN, the G7 and the wider international community to explore the best solutions, whether by road, rail, river or sea, to extract the 25 million tons of grain stuck in Ukraine.

UK Trade with EU

Asked by **Lord Birt**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the percentage of British businesses that have stopped trading with the EU since 1 January 2021. [HL603]

Lord True: A response to the noble Lord's Parliamentary Question of 6 June is below and attached.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician
The Lord Birt House of Lords London SW1A 0PW
17 June 2022

Dear Lord Birt,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of the percentage of British businesses that have stopped trading with the EU since 1 January 2021 (HL603).

Unfortunately, the Office for National Statistics does not hold or publish data on the percentage of British businesses that have stopped trading with the EU since 1 January 2021.

Through the Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS), however, we do collect some data on the changes businesses have made to how and where they import and export since 1 January 2021.

Estimates from early May 2022 show that 4% of trading exporting businesses changed from exporting their goods and services to EU countries to nations from outside the EU. The percentage of trading importing businesses who changed from importing from within the EU to outside the EU was 2%. Table 1 provides the estimates from BICS at the start of 2021 and May 2022, where we asked businesses that have exported or imported in the last 12 months if they have changed where they have exported/imported goods or services to in the last three months.[1]

In early March 2022, estimates from BICS show that 7% of businesses made changes to supply chains due to the end of the EU transition period. Table 2 provides the time series from BICS, where we asked businesses if they made changes to supply chains due to the end of the EU transition period.

The UK leaving the EU and the subsequent transition period, along with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-

19) pandemic, global recession and supply chain disruption, have caused higher levels of volatility in trade statistics in the past two years. We have investigated the impacts of EU exit and COVID-19 on UK trade in goods [2] and UK trade in services [3] in recent articles, and have also examined the extent to which supply chains have shifted following the end of the EU exit transition period in UK trade in goods, year in review: 2021. [4]

However, it continues to be difficult to assess the extent to which trade movements reflect short-term trade disruption or longer-term supply chain adjustments.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Table 1: Have you changed where you have exported/imported your goods or services to in the last three months?

Percentage of businesses currently trading and have exported or imported in last 12 months, weighted by count, UK, 8 February 2021 to 15 May 2022

	Reference period	Changed from EU to non-EU	Changed from non-EU to EU	No Changes Made	Not Sure
Exporting businesses	8 February to 21 February 2021	2.1%	[c]	93.1%	4.3%
	3 May to 15 May 2022	4.2%	1.0%	92.5%	2.3%
Importing businesses	8 February to 21 February 2021	1.7%	1.2%	95.2%	2.5%
	3 May to 15 May 2022	1.6%	[c]	91.6%	5.9%

Source: Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) [6]

Table 2: Has your business made changes to supply chains due to the end of the EU transition period?

Percentage of businesses not permanently stopped, weighted by count, UK, 22 March 2021 to 20 March 2022

Reference Period	Yes	No	Not Sure	Not applicable
22 March to 4 April 2021	3.70%	59.60%	4.60%	32.10%
5 April to 18 April 2021	4.30%	57.00%	4.20%	34.50%
19 April to 2 May 2021	3.80%	56.80%	5.30%	34.10%

Reference Period	Yes	No	Not Sure	Not applicable
3 May to 16 May 2021	3.70%	56.90%	3.80%	35.60%
17 May to 30 May 2021	3.60%	47.10%	5.10%	44.20%
31 May to 13 June 2021	4.00%	51.10%	4.20%	40.60%
14 June to 27 June 2021	4.50%	45.00%	5.10%	45.30%
12 July to 25 July 2021	4.30%	36.30%	6.70%	52.70%
9 August to 22 August 2021	4.10%	40.40%	6.40%	49.00%
6 September to 19 September 2021	4.40%	39.20%	6.70%	49.70%
18 October to 31 October 2021	4.90%	48.80%	5.20%	41.20%
15 November to 28 November 2021	5.00%	51.60%	5.00%	38.50%
13 December to 26 December 2021	4.70%	48.30%	4.90%	42.10%
10 January to 23 January 2022	4.70%	41.00%	6.00%	48.20%
7 February to 20 February 2022	4.70%	43.40%	5.60%	46.30%
7 March to 20 March 2022	6.60%	47.80%	4.50%	41.10%

Source: Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS)

1

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessinsightsandimpactontheukeconomy>

2

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/internationaltrade/articles/theimpactsofeuexitandthecoronavirusonuktradeingoods/2021-05-25>

3

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/articles/theimpactsofeuexitandcoronaviruscovid19onuktradeinservices/latest>

4

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/articles/uktradeingoodseyearinreview/2021>

5 [c] represents data that has been removed for confidentiality reasons, such as percentages less than 1%.

6 Further time periods are available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessinsightsandimpactontheukeconomy>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA response to HL603 [UKSA_Response_to_PQHL603.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL603>

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will be nominating someone for next year's elections to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. [HL780]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The next election for members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women will take place later this month. The Government has not put forward a candidate. The election after this will be in 2024 and the Government will decide nearer the time whether to nominate a candidate.

Undocumented Migrants: Repatriation

Asked by The Earl of Dundee

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are seeking to co-operate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on assisted voluntary return and reintegration of irregular migrants; and, if so, what form such co-operation would take. [HL609]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works with a wide range of stakeholders on a co-operative basis, ensuring that they are aware of the Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) and its offer, and how to ensure interested members of the community can apply. IOM is

one of many such organisations which we engage with on a regular basis.

Separate to the VRS, the Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) offers all foreign national offenders with a determinate prison sentence the opportunity to volunteer to return to their country of origin. Under separate arrangements set out in policy, the Home Office also provides financial assistance to certain groups of migrants to assist with reintegration in their country of origin after departure from the UK. IOM assist in the capacity of some post-arrival reception services linked to and outside of the FRS scheme.

Venezuela: Embassies

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Venezuela regarding the removal of any illegal squatters from outside that country's (1) Embassy, and (2) Consulate, buildings in London. [HL677]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: No concern has been raised with us by the Venezuelan authorities about illegal squatters in the Venezuelan Embassy or Consulate building in London.

Venezuela: Refugees

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what aid they are providing to those fleeing Venezuela. [HL675]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK is extremely concerned by the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Since 2019, Her Majesty's Government has spent £37 million in humanitarian aid in response to the Venezuelan crisis, focusing on health, nutrition, and water and sanitation, both inside Venezuela, and with refugees in countries in the region. Due to the devastating impact

of the pandemic on the UK's economy and resulting ODA cuts, the UK is not funding substantial new bilateral humanitarian programmes in response to the Venezuela crisis.

Venezuela: UN Human Rights Council

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek the expulsion of Venezuela from the United Nations Human Rights Council due to that country's human rights record. [HL673]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK has been clear about our human rights concerns in Venezuela. Reports on the situation by the UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission have been deeply worrying, suggesting very serious human rights violations are being carried out with the support of regime leaders, senior military officers and officials. The UK actively promotes and supports human rights in Venezuela through our engagement and projects.

The UK is clear that all members of the Council should uphold the high standards expected of them and demonstrate respect for the principle of universal human rights in their actions.

West Bank: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to protect access to water for Palestinians in the West Bank. [HL682]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK has raised the issue of access to water in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with the Israeli authorities, including stressing the urgent need for Israel to take immediate and practical measures to improve the current situation and ensure fair distribution of water in the West Bank.

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