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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements1

Written Answers.....7

[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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

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

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Written Statements

Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Active Travel England

[HLWS145]

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

I am pleased to announce further progress standing up Active Travel England, the new Executive Agency which will help deliver this Government's £2 billion commitment to active travel and creating a new golden age of walking and cycling.

A number of senior leadership appointments have now been made for Active Travel England. Chris Boardman MBE has been confirmed as England's National Active Travel Commissioner on a permanent basis. After his appointment as the interim Commissioner at the start of the year, he will continue to lead Active Travel England and chair the Interim Board which has now been established.

The Department expects to be able to confirm shortly the appointment of Danny Williams as Active Travel England's Chief Executive, who will be starting full time in August. He will bring a wealth of experience to the role from successfully setting up and growing both large and start-up businesses and from his dedicated campaigning for improving walking and cycling provision.

Louise Wilkinson has been appointed as Active Travel England's Chief Operating Officer. She has a successful career in financial management for the Civil Service and Local Government and has most recently been a Finance Deputy Director in the Cabinet Office.

The Department expects to confirm shortly the appointment of Graham Grant as its Director of Planning. He was until recently the Assistant Director of Transport at Newcastle City Council.

Brian Deegan has also started as the Director of Inspections. He has successfully developed and delivered street designs for improving active travel in Greater Manchester and London and will work with local authorities to design high quality schemes. A small number of DfT employees will also transfer to the new body.

Despite only having a handful of officers in place - Active Travel England has already started to deliver significant benefits, in line with the Gear Change commitment to deliver a step change in the quality of walking and cycling infrastructure. It has assessed and awarded £161 million of funding for 134 Active Travel Fund projects, announced on 14 May 2022, which will deliver high-quality schemes in 46 authorities in England, outside London. This early work will enable 16 million extra cycling and walking journeys to take place each year. It has also developed a suite of tools which will help local active travel projects deliver high-quality

infrastructure, and it has delivered training and engagement events for local authorities. Its work will significantly improve value for money of cycling and walking schemes.

Improved active travel provision has many benefits. It will play an important role in improving the health of the nation by reducing physical inactivity and it is vital to the Government's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Better walking and cycling provision will also help make local areas greener, healthier and better places to live.

Census 2021

[HLWS144]

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

The 22nd decennial census of population for England and Wales was taken on 21 March 2021. Today, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes the first results that I have laid in a report before the House this morning. These results are just the start of an extensive range of Census 2021 statistics and analyses to be published during 2022 and 2023 and beyond.

Census 2021 was a great success. Delivered against the backdrop of the Coronavirus pandemic, the first digital-first census achieved response rates of 97%, with 89% of households completing it online. This household response rate far exceeded the ONS's target of 94% nationally and local response rates were above the target of 80% in each local authority area. I thank the public for their response.

The figures published today show that the usual resident population of England and Wales on Census Day - 21 March 2021 - was estimated to be 59,597,300 (56,489,800 in England and 3,107,500 in Wales); this was the largest population ever recorded through a census in England and Wales. The population of England and Wales grew by more than 3.5 million (6.3%) since the last census in 2011, when it was 56,075,912. The report laid before the House provides estimates of the population down to local authority level, broken down by age and sex, as well as the number of households, data on population density, and changes in population and households over time. The statistical datasets underlying the report have also been published today on the ONS website, along with other analysis and information.

Census data are critical to planning and delivering local services as well as informing decision making at national and local levels. Early data from Census 2021 have already been used to inform management of the Coronavirus pandemic. Information on where Ukrainian communities are located in England and Wales has been used to inform our humanitarian response to the crisis. The huge range of high-quality data and detail from the census, combined with other sources will ensure the changing needs of society can be understood and met.

Over the coming months, the ONS will publish data and analysis covering the range of topics and questions

included in Census 2021, including the new questions on sexual orientation, gender identity and previous service in the UK Armed Forces. These will be followed by data releases which will allow users to conduct in-depth analysis using data across multiple census variables, as well as a range of ONS analytical publications exploring the data in more detail across the range of census topics. In total, these releases will include some five billion census statistics. Further detail of the planned releases and publications can be found on the Census 2021 outputs pages of the ONS's website.

The ONS is producing a suite of tools to enable users of all levels of experience with population data to explore the results of the census. To maintain the privacy of personal census responses, strict measures of statistical disclosure control ensure that no individual person or household can be identified from the information released.

The census in Northern Ireland was conducted on the same day as in England and Wales. However, the census in Scotland took place in March 2022. The statistical offices of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are working together to ensure the production of harmonised statistics across the UK and to address issues arising from the census in Scotland taking place a year later.

Alongside the delivery of the digital-first census in 2021, the ONS is transforming the population and migration statistics system. This work will enable more frequent and timely statistics about our population using administrative data supplemented by surveys. In addition to Census 2021 outputs and regular Mid-Year Estimates, throughout this year the ONS will continue to publish research updates, building towards "experimental" monthly age/sex profiles of the population relating to 2022. This will start with a proof of concept for admin-based monthly population estimates as soon as possible after the first Census 2021 results are released. As its methods mature, the ONS will embed these into its official estimates and move on from the "experimental" status. The ONS is continuing to develop its methods for producing population and migration statistics. It also aims to publish a proof of concept that demonstrates the feasibility of producing statistics from admin data combining two or more characteristics, starting with income by ethnicity, which builds on research published last year on admin-based income and ethnicity statistics. This new approach will inform a recommendation by the National Statistician in 2023 on the future of the census and population statistics in England and Wales.

Children's Homes

[HLWS142]

Baroness Barran: My Honourable Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families (Mr Will Quince), has made the following statement:

Today I am providing an update on the department's response to whistleblowing allegations made to Ofsted and the BBC by former employees of Calcot Services for Children. The allegations describe shocking abuse and safeguarding failures in children's homes run by Calcot, including allegations of grooming, rape, sexual assault, and of Calcot cutting corners on staffing ratios. This is something that I, and the department, takes with the utmost seriousness. We expect all children's homes to provide the right support, care and protection for children who live there - no organisation should exploit those in need.

Calcot runs 8 children's homes and 3 independent schools in Reading and the surrounding areas for children with complex emotional / behavioural difficulties and/or learning disabilities. Ofsted is responsible for regulating children's homes and ensuring that action is taken where homes are not providing good quality and safe care for the children they look after. I met Her Majesty's Chief Inspector at Ofsted on 14 June to discuss my concerns about Calcot. In the light of the most recent concerns, Ofsted have further accelerated their planned programme of inspection across Calcot's children's homes and schools. Following recent inspections, the first inspection report was published on 21 June and the children's home was rated as inadequate. Ofsted has issued the home with compliance notices and it is restricted from taking more children until it can demonstrate it has improved the quality of care.

As some inspections are still in progress, I cannot say more on the outcomes at this time. However, three further homes have had restrictions imposed limiting the number of children they can care for. If Ofsted find widespread and systemic failings, they will not hesitate to issue a notice to suspend the registration of the home and consider serving a notice to cancel the registration of the home if necessary. This action would be taken if Ofsted considered that the children were not safe and if they did not have confidence that the provider could make appropriate and sufficient changes quickly enough.

The safeguarding of the children in our collective care remains paramount and as these inspections progress Ofsted will update the department, and both will continue to work with placing Local Authorities to ensure that appropriate and proportionate action is taken to safeguard children.

With regards to the three independent schools run by Calcot, the department is working with the inspectorates to ensure they are meeting the Independent School Standards and keeping their children safe.

Independent schools should meet all of the Independent School Standards at all times. Where any school has serious failings or failings for an extended period of time, the Department may consider whether enforcement action is appropriate under its published regulatory and enforcement policy action, which can be found at the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/attachment_data/file/809551/Ind_schools_enforcement_policy_statement_post_consultation_13061

Separately, in January, the Education Secretary agreed that the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel should undertake a national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs in residential settings. It will ask some important questions about how children with disabilities are safeguarded. Most importantly, it will seek to identify ways in which practice and policy might need to change to protect children better in the future.

We will consider all this information together with the findings from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care and Competition and Market's Authority market study, to inform our implementation strategy, due to be published later this year.

Countering State Threats: Call-out Order

[HLWS146]

Baroness Goldie: My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (James Heappey MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

A new order has been made under section 56(1B) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable Reservists to be called into permanent service to prepare for, participate in, or support operations by Her Majesty's Armed Forces to counter state threats.

States engage in and orchestrate overt and covert action which falls short of general armed conflict but nevertheless seeks to undermine or threaten the safety and interests of the UK, including the integrity of its democracy, its public safety, its military advantage and its reputation or economic prosperity. The characteristics of state threats are changing, diversifying and evolving. States who engage in hostile activity against the UK and our overseas interests are becoming increasingly emboldened, asserting themselves more aggressively, to advance their geo-political objectives and undermine the UK's democracy, security, prosperity, resilience, values and global strategic advantage.

The Ministry of Defence is regularly tasked to support broader HMG objectives. As part of this support, Reserve Forces will be on standby, routinely as part of a Whole Force approach with Regular Services, to deliver a range of Defence outputs, including support to Partners Across Government. Outputs will be enabled by Reserve Forces providing capabilities such as (but not limited to) formed sub-units, individual augmentees and specialist skills.

The order shall take effect from the day on which it is made and shall cease to have effect 12 months from the date on which it is made.

Energy Supply Company Special Administration Regime

[HLWS143]

Lord Callanan: My Right Honourable friend the Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change (Greg Hands) has today made the following statement:

Today I will lay before Parliament a Departmental Minute describing a number of contingent liabilities arising from the issuance of letters of credit for the Energy Administrators acting in the Special Administration Regime for Bulb Energy Limited ('Bulb'). These letters of credit replace previous ones provided, announced within past Written Ministerial Statements, which soon expire.

It is normal practice when a Government Department proposes to undertake a contingent liability of £300,000 and above, for which there is no specific statutory authority, for the Department concerned to present Parliament with a minute giving particulars of the liability created and explaining the circumstances.

I have ensured that Parliament has been afforded the full 14-sitting day notification period to allow the proper scrutiny of these new contingent liabilities.

Bulb entered the Energy Supply Company Special Administration Regime on 24 November 2021. Energy Administrators were appointed by court to achieve the statutory objective of continuing energy supplies at the lowest reasonable practicable cost until such time as it becomes unnecessary for the special administration to remain in force for that purpose.

My Department has agreed to provide a facility to the Energy Administrators, with letters of credit issued, with my approval, to guarantee such contract, code, licence, or other document obligations of the company consistent with the special administration's statutory objective. I will update the House if any letters of credit are drawn against.

The legal basis for a letter of credit is section 165 of the Energy Act 2004, as applied and modified by section 96 of the Energy Act 2011.

HM Treasury has approved the arrangements in principle.

India Trade Negotiations

[HLWS147]

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 fourth round of UK-India Free Trade Agreement negotiations began on 13 June and concluded on 24 June. The negotiations, at official level, were conducted in a hybrid fashion, with some negotiators in our dedicated UK negotiations facility, and others attending virtually.

During this round, talks focused on draft treaty text. Technical discussions were held across 20 policy areas over 71 separate sessions, with draft treaty text advanced across the majority of chapters.

The fifth round of official-level negotiations is due to take place in July 2022.

We remain clear that any deal the Government strikes must be in the best interests of the British people and the economy.

The Government will keep Parliament updated as these negotiations progress.

Machinery of Government: Arbitration Policy

[HLWS149]

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

I am making this statement to bring to the House's attention the following Machinery of Government change.

Responsibility for private commercial arbitration policy and the Arbitration Act 1996 will move from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Ministry of Justice from 1 July 2022. This transfer will locate private commercial arbitration policy alongside other forms of dispute resolution policy. This will allow the Ministry of Justice to pursue a comprehensive and unified approach to the promotion and continued competitiveness of the UK as a world-leading destination for all forms of dispute resolution. The transfer of policy responsibility will also allow the MoJ to meet its responsibilities of working in the interests of all parts of the UK's legal sector, of which arbitration is a vital component.

Nationality and Borders Act 2022: Implementation

[HLWS148]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice and Tackling Illegal Migration (Tom Pursglove) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In April, the Nationality and Borders Act achieved Royal Assent. This landmark legislation will help to deliver a fair but firm asylum system; deterring illegal entry into the UK, breaking the business model of people-smuggling networks and speeding up the removal of those with no right to be here. In turn, this will free up the asylum system so we can better support those in genuine need of asylum through safe and legal routes.

Today, new measures from the Act will come into effect. Including:

- Amended criminal offences with increased maximum penalties for those attempting to arrive in the UK illegally - from six months to four years - and maximum life imprisonment for people smugglers, including pilots of small boats in the Channel and

others who dangerously smuggle migrants into the UK. In addition, we have increased the maximum penalty for Foreign National Offenders who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order from six months to five years.

- A suite of asylum reforms, with the central principle that those seeking protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach. Our reforms also introduce a new differentiated approach, whereby those who did not come to the UK directly, did not claim without delay, or did not show good cause for their illegal entry or presence, may be given lesser entitlements than those who have complied with these requirements, for example refugees who have come to the UK via safe and legal routes. The different entitlements include a shorter grant of permission to stay (a minimum of 30 months instead of 5 years), no automatic right to settlement and access to family reunion only where a refusal would breach our international obligations.

- An ability to impose visa penalties – this means slowing or stopping our services where countries pose a risk to international peace and security and those that refuse to take back their own citizens who have no right to be in the UK.

- Nationality changes, creating fairer access to British nationality.

- Changes to bail and returns, which includes strengthening the Early Removal Scheme for Foreign National Offenders to remove them sooner than was the case previously.

These reforms sit alongside other important changes, including a world-leading migration and economic partnership with Rwanda. Further reforms from the Act will be implemented over the coming months and into next year as we seek to build and deliver a fair, but firm asylum and immigration system.

UK Covid-19 Inquiry

[HLWS150]

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

On 15 December 2021 I appointed the Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett as chair of the UK Inquiry into Covid-19. Earlier this year, I published terms of reference for the inquiry in draft and asked Baroness Hallett to conduct a public consultation in order to inform refinements to those terms of reference. I am grateful to Baroness Hallett for the very extensive consultation she conducted and for the subsequent amendments to the inquiry's terms of reference which she put forward as a result.

Having considered Baroness Hallett's proposals carefully and consulted the administrations in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, I am content to accept her changes in full, subject only to a small number of clarificatory amendments put forward by the devolved administrations and agreed with Baroness Hallett. The inquiry's final terms of reference are set out in full below.

In appointing Baroness Hallett as the inquiry's chair I confirmed that I proposed to appoint additional panel members in order that the inquiry has access to the full range of expertise needed to complete its important work. I can now confirm that I propose to appoint two such panel members, and that I propose to do so in the coming months.

The UK inquiry into Covid-19 is now formally established and able to begin its important work. Its terms of reference are as follows:

"The Inquiry will examine, consider and report on preparations and the response to the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, up to and including the Inquiry's formal setting-up date, 28 June 2022.

In carrying out its work, the Inquiry will consider reserved and devolved matters across the United Kingdom, as necessary, but will seek to minimise duplication of investigation, evidence gathering and reporting with any other public inquiry established by the devolved governments. To achieve this, the Inquiry will set out publicly how it intends to minimise duplication, and will liaise with any such inquiry before it investigates any matter which is also within that inquiry's scope.

In meeting its aims, the Inquiry will:

a) consider any disparities evident in the impact of the pandemic on different categories of people, including, but not limited to, those relating to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and equality categories under the Northern Ireland Act 1998;

b) listen to and consider carefully the experiences of bereaved families and others who have suffered hardship or loss as a result of the pandemic. Although the Inquiry will not consider in detail individual cases of harm or death, listening to these accounts will inform its understanding of the impact of the pandemic and the response, and of the lessons to be learned;

c) highlight where lessons identified from preparedness and the response to the pandemic may be applicable to other civil emergencies;

d) have reasonable regard to relevant international comparisons; and

e) produce its reports (including interim reports) and any recommendations in a timely manner.

The aims of the Inquiry are to:

1. Examine the COVID-19 response and the impact of the pandemic in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and produce a factual narrative account, including:

a) The public health response across the whole of the UK, including

i) preparedness and resilience;

ii) how decisions were made, communicated, recorded, and implemented;

iii) decision-making between the governments of the UK;

iv) the roles of, and collaboration between, central government, devolved administrations, regional and local authorities, and the voluntary and community sector;

v) the availability and use of data, research and expert evidence;

vi) legislative and regulatory control and enforcement;

vii) shielding and the protection of the clinically vulnerable;

viii) the use of lockdowns and other 'non-pharmaceutical' interventions such as social distancing and the use of face coverings;

ix) testing and contact tracing, and isolation;

x) the impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the population, including but not limited to those who were harmed significantly by the pandemic;

xi) the impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the bereaved, including post-bereavement support;

xii) the impact on health and care sector workers and other key workers;

xiii) the impact on children and young people, including health, wellbeing and social care;

xiv) education and early years provision;

xv) the closure and reopening of the hospitality, retail, sport and leisure, and travel and tourism sectors, places of worship, and cultural institutions;

xvi) housing and homelessness;

xvii) safeguarding and support for victims of domestic abuse;

xviii) prisons and other places of detention;

xix) the justice system;

xx) immigration and asylum;

xxi) travel and borders; and

xxii) the safeguarding of public funds and management of financial risk.

b) The response of the health and care sector across the UK, including:

i) preparedness, initial capacity and the ability to increase capacity, and resilience;

ii) initial contact with official healthcare advice services such as 111 and 999;

iii) the role of primary care settings such as General Practice;

iv) the management of the pandemic in hospitals, including infection prevention and control, triage, critical care capacity, the discharge of patients, the use of 'Do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation' (DNACPR) decisions, the approach to palliative care, workforce testing, changes to inspections, and the impact on staff and staffing levels;

v) the management of the pandemic in care homes and other care settings, including infection prevention and control, the transfer of residents to or from homes, treatment and care of residents, restrictions on visiting, workforce testing and changes to inspections;

- vi) care in the home, including by unpaid carers;
 - vii) antenatal and postnatal care;
 - viii) the procurement and distribution of key equipment and supplies, including PPE and ventilators;
 - ix) the development, delivery and impact of therapeutics and vaccines;
 - x) the consequences of the pandemic on provision for non-COVID related conditions and needs; and
 - xi) provision for those experiencing long-COVID.
- c) The economic response to the pandemic and its impact, including governmental interventions by way of:

- i) support for businesses, jobs and the self-employed, including the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, loans schemes, business rates relief and grants;
 - ii) additional funding for relevant public services;
 - iii) additional funding for the voluntary and community sector; and
 - iv) benefits and sick pay, and support for vulnerable people.
2. Identify the lessons to be learned from the above, to inform preparations for future pandemics across the UK.”

Written Answers

Tuesday, 28 June 2022

Amoon and Qaisar Ayub

Asked by *Lord Harries of Pentregarth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the government of Pakistan regarding the death sentences given to Qaiser and Amoon Ayub. [HL939]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle, and have made that clear to the Government of Pakistan. We are deeply concerned at the misuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan. We continue to press for speedy and fair trials for those accused of blasphemy, including cases such as Qaiser and Amoon Ayub, and urge the authorities to ensure the safety of those charged and those later released.

Asylum: Rwanda

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) total cost, and (2) cost per person, of deportation flights to Rwanda. [HL941]

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government which ministers, if any, will accompany deportees on deportation flights to Rwanda. [HL942]

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many civil servants, including (1) medical, and (2) security, staff, will accompany deportees on deportation flights to Rwanda. [HL943]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not routinely disclose commercial or operational information relating to individual charter flights, but I can assure my Noble Colleague that the appropriate and relevant number of Home Office staff and contractors will be present on the aircraft in order to protect the safety, wellbeing and security of those people being relocated.

Boilers: Hydrogen

Asked by *Lord Naseby*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the possible use of hydrogen alongside existing gas boilers; and whether the use of hydrogen could remove the need for gas boilers entirely. [HL951]

Lord Callanan: The Government is monitoring progress on trials that use blends of hydrogen in existing gas boilers to inform decisions in 2023 on whether to enable blending up to 20% hydrogen by volume into Great Britain gas networks. The Government is also supporting research, development and testing projects that will generate evidence on the costs, feasibility and impacts of using boilers that run entirely on hydrogen.

British Business Bank

Asked by *Baroness Kramer*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what ministerial directions they have given to the British Business Bank; and what were the contents of those directions. [HL997]

Lord Callanan: A Ministerial Direction is a formal instruction by a Minister to the Chief Accounting Office of their department to proceed with a spending proposal. These are available on the GOV.UK website.

In the case of the British Business Bank plc, a Written Direction is a formal instruction issued by or on behalf of the British Business Bank's Shareholder, the Secretary of State for BEIS, to proceed with a requested course of action after the Board has raised its concerns through a Reservation Notice. With respect to the Government's Covid-19 Loan Schemes, all these notices are publicly available to view on the Bank's website and GOV.UK.

Bureaux de Change

Asked by *Lord Birt*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require currency exchange services for consumers to display both (1) the live interbank exchange rate, and (2) the commission charged, following the UK's departure from the EU. [HL1077]

Baroness Penn: Where currency conversion is provided as part of a payment transaction, the Payment Services Regulations 2017 make requirements on UK payment service providers regarding disclosure of fees and charges to the payer, for example, the exchange rate used for a currency conversion transaction. Provisions under the Cross Border Payments Regulation, which continue to apply in the UK as part of retained EU law, also contribute to price transparency, with further requirements regarding how foreign exchange costs are communicated before a payment is made. The Government has no plans at this time to amend the requirements on firms, but keeps all policy under review.

The Government recognises the importance of transparency of fees and charges in ensuring effective competition between payment service providers. These regulations, amongst other things, are intended to enable consumers to make informed decisions when making use of payment services including where currency conversion is offered as part of a payment transaction.

Charities: Tax Allowances

Asked by **Lord Vinson**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much tax is forgone annually by HM Treasury as a result of the tax exemptions for charities' (1) donations, (2) investment income, and (3) gains on capital investments. [HL1178]

Baroness Penn: Tax relief is available on donations to charity by individuals and organisations, and to charities for their activities, including investment income.

Estimates for tax reliefs on charitable donations by individuals are published in "UK charity tax relief statistics". The table below is an extract from the latest edition, showing these estimates for the previous 5 tax years.

Extract from Table 1 and 2: Estimates for UK charities tax reliefs. Updated November 2021

Restricted to those reliefs for which accurate figures can be estimated

Tax Year	Reliefs paid to charities				Reliefs paid to individuals		
	Gift Aid	Gift Aid Small royalties, Donations Scheme donations etc	Interest, Inheritance trust	Payroll Tax Giving	Gifts of Higher shares and Relief property on Gift Aid	Rate	
2016-17	1,270	30	10	660	40	60	410
2017-18	1,260	30	10	700	40	60	480
2018-19	1,350	40	10	800	40	70	500
2019-20	1,400	40	10	840	40	70	490
2020-21	1,380	30	10	860	40	70	490

Information about tax relief on charities' investment income, and on charitable donations by organisations is not readily available.

Construction Contracts (England) Exclusion Order 2022

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish (1) the list of consultees for the draft Construction Contracts (England) Exclusion Order 2022, and (2) the list of projects excluded by this draft Order and their respective cost estimates. [HL977]

Lord Callanan: A consultation took place with relevant construction industry and water sector stakeholders. Those consulted included construction trade and legal associations, individual contractor companies, consultancies, water utility companies and other government departments. A number of individual responses were also received. Consultees included:

- Addleshaw Goddard LLP
- Ashurst LLP
- Balfour Beatty
- BAM Construction
- Build UK
- Civil Engineering Contractors Association
- CMS LLP
- Construction Law Society
- Construction Leadership Council Business Models Contractual Working Group
- Costain
- Crown Commercial Services
- Deloitte
- Diamond Transmission
- EY
- Infrastructure Projects Authority
- KMPG
- National Grid ESO
- Severn Trent Water
- Southern Water
- Transmission Investment / Amber Infrastructure
- United Utilities
- Water UK Roundtable – Yorkshire Water, South West Water, Welsh Water, United Utilities.

In addition, engagement was undertaken with each Devolved Administration.

No projects are either included or excluded by the design of this measure, but to benefit from the Exclusion Order they would need to be consistent with the provisions of the statutory instrument. Projects designated for delivery by way of Direct Procurement for Customers (DPC) need to satisfy various selection criteria including, that the estimated whole-life totex (i.e. capital expenditure plus operations and maintenance costs) of the project is likely to exceed a threshold (currently set at £100m), and that delivering the project via DPC has the potential to offer best value for money for customers compared to delivery by the relevant water undertaker.

Development Aid

Asked by **Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how funding for the Global Fund's seventh replenishment will advance the priorities of their international development strategy. [HL953]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The new International Development Strategy (IDS) highlights that global health will remain a top priority. We will continue to deliver our health commitments on COVID-19; building strong health systems; promoting a One Health approach; and working towards ending preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children, including through Gavi and the

Global Fund. Our support to the Global Fund to address the HIV burden in adolescent girls and young women, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, also contributes to the IDS priority on empowering women and girls. The UK pledged £1.4 billion to the Global Fund's 6th replenishment (2020-2022), making us the 2nd largest donor. We are reviewing the Global Fund's investment case for the 7th replenishment and deciding our precise contribution in line with delivering the new International Development Strategy. The Global Fund will continue to be a key partner for the UK in the shared fight against HIV, TB and malaria.

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of the United States, as host of the Global Fund's seventh replenishment, about the UK's contribution to that fund; and whether they intend to match the United States by increasing UK funding by one third to reach the replenishment target of \$18 billion. [HL955]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State recently discussed the upcoming 7th replenishment of the Global Fund. The UK has been a committed supporter of the Global Fund, investing over £4.1 billion in the organisation to date. We are the second largest donor to the 6th replenishment, with a pledge of up to £1.4 billion. The UK will continue to make a significant financial and leadership contribution to the Global Fund. We are currently reviewing the Global Fund's 7th replenishment investment case in line with our recently published International Development Strategy and will continue to work with all G7 and G20 members, including the US, to support progress in the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria.

Duke of Sussex: Charter Flights

*Asked by **Lord Berkeley***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they funded the return charter flight for the Duke of Sussex from the United States to the UK for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. [HL1076]

Baroness Penn: No public money was used for the charter flight for the Duke of Sussex from the United States to the UK.

The Government provides financial support to the Queen known as the Sovereign Grant, to fund The Queen's official duties and maintain the Occupied Royal Palaces. Funding from the Sovereign Grant only covers expenses incurred by other Members of the Royal Family when they undertake official duties on behalf of Her Majesty.

Evusheld

*Asked by **Lord Tyrie***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efficacy of Evusheld on the

protection of patients with metastatic cancer from COVID-19. [HL973]

Lord Kamall: The Department is currently assessing Evusheld, which includes requesting clinicians to advise on the most appropriate option for the National Health Service with the available data, the public health situation and other treatments available. We expect to receive clinical advice shortly.

The Therapeutics Clinical Review Panel provides advice on the most appropriate patient cohorts for new COVID-19 therapies, including preventative treatments. However, we are currently unable to confirm the efficacy of Evusheld for specific patient groups. Final clinical policies and eligibility would be proposed by the NHS and agreed by the United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers.

Gambling: Rehabilitation

*Asked by **Lord Foster of Bath***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of including support related to (1) gambling related harms, and (2) gambling addiction, in Liaison and Diversion schemes to divert individuals from the criminal justice system. [HL981]

Lord Kamall: While no formal assessment has been made, NHS England and NHS Improvement have held national workshops for all liaison and diversion service providers on the vulnerabilities caused by gambling addiction.

Grenfell Tower: Fires

*Asked by **Lord Sikka***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to meet survivors and bereaved relatives of the Grenfell disaster to discuss the Government's handling of that tragedy. [HL958]

Lord Greenhalgh: Since taking post, the Levelling Up Secretary and Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing have been regularly meeting with bereaved families, survivors and local residents to discuss the issues which matter to the community. This includes four open community meetings as well as individual meetings with community groups.

*Asked by **Lord Sikka***

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether criminal charges relating to the Grenfell disaster have been brought; and if so, what were the outcomes of those cases. [HL959]

Lord Greenhalgh: The ongoing police investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire and any criminal charges relating to the disaster are a matter for the Metropolitan Police Service and the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Metropolitan Police Service has announced that it will wait until the Inquiry has published its final report

before deciding what evidence to submit to the Crown Prosecution Service, as they will take into account the evidence from the Inquiry.

Hartismere Hospital

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current diagnostic capacity in the NHS; and, further to any such assessment, what immediate consideration they have given to designating the Hartismere Hospital in Suffolk as a diagnostic hub to serve the surrounding rural area. [HL985]

Lord Kamall: The Spending Review 2020 provided £325 million, with a further £2.3 billion in the 2021 Spending Review, for diagnostic services, including the launch of up to 160 community diagnostic centres (CDCs) by March 2025. There are currently 90 CDCs in operation, including supporting sites, which have delivered one million tests and scans since July 2021. CDCs are projected to deliver 17 million tests in the next three years, with an annual capacity for approximately nine million tests by 2025. The National Health Service collects data on 15 diagnostic tests, which shows that 1,850,900 diagnostic tests were delivered in April 2022. This is an increase of 3,400 from April 2021.

The East of England region, including Suffolk, is currently working with integrated care systems, diagnostic networks and primary care services to determine the location and configuration of services for future CDCs, based on the needs of the local population.

Health and Care Act 2022

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask Her Majesty's Government when section 177 of the Health and Care Act 2022 came, or will come, into force. [HL853]

Lord Kamall: Section 117 of the Health and Care Act 2022 will come into force on 1 October 2022.

High Speed 2 Line: Euston to Glasgow

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current planned maximum speed of HS2 trains on the HS2 tracks (1) in the open, and (2) in tunnels; and what is the expected journey time from London Euston to Glasgow Central of HS2 trains, without using the Golborne Link. [HL1075]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The HS2 Rolling Stock will have a maximum speed of 360km/h but will run slower on certain parts of the infrastructure, including some tunnels, due to specific geographic constraints.

In the current planning assumptions, used to inform the business case for HS2, the journey time from London to

Glasgow will be 3 hours 48 minutes once Phase 2a is operational.

Horticulture: Seasonal Workers

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to allow asylum seekers to be deployed to pick fruit and vegetables in the UK while their applications are being assessed; and if not, why not. [HL945]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has no plans to do this.

We recently conducted a review of the policy in this area and have already published its outcome.

Isa Muazu

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider the status of Isa Muazu, who was deported from the UK to Nigeria in 2013. [HL956]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am unable to comment on individual cases on the grounds of data protection principles and the operational independence of the police and courts.

The UK only ever returns those who both the Home Office and the courts are satisfied do not need our protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK. We do not routinely reconsider the cases of those who have been lawfully removed.

Israel: Palestinians

Asked by Baroness Sheehan

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 4 June (HL421), what representations they will make to the government of Israel to deter the expulsion of Palestinians from the Masafer Yatta area of the West Bank. [HL957]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are monitoring developments at Masafer Yatta closely given the increased risk of the forced transfer of over 1000 Palestinians, and the demolition of their homes. The UK is clear that in all but the most exceptional of circumstances, demolitions and evictions are contrary to International Humanitarian Law. Our opposition to the demolition of Palestinian property and the evictions of Palestinians from their homes is long-standing. The practice causes unnecessary suffering to Palestinians and is harmful to efforts to promote peace. Minister Milling met with Palestinian families affected by the ongoing demolition and eviction orders at Masafer Yatta during her visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and raised our concerns on the impact with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Roll on 22 June.

Juries: Car Allowances

Asked by The Earl of Caithness

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the price per litre of petrol when the Ministry of Justice set the car travel allowance for jurors at 45 pence per mile; and what plans they have to increase that allowance. [HL935]

Lord Bellamy: The car travel allowance for jurors is 31.4 pence per mile, with additional allowances available if the car contains other jurors as passengers. It was set at 31.4 pence per mile by the Ministry of Justice when the price of fuel was 121 pence per litre.

There is an additional rate for jurors of 4.2 pence per mile if one other juror is a passenger, with further juror passengers having a rate of 3.2 pence. With 4 juror passengers (additional to the driver), 45.2 pence per mile could be claimed.

The government values jury service as an important civic duty, that should be representative of society. In addition to the car travel allowance, there are other expenses that can be claimed. Information on what can be claimed is available on the gov.uk website and this information is also provided to jurors when they are summoned.

Mental Health Services: Children

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children in England are currently on the waiting list for an NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service appointment. [HL905]

Lord Kamall: This information is not held in the format requested as there is no current waiting time standard for this service.

NHS England and NHS Improvement consulted on the potential to introduce five new access and waiting time standards for mental health services. This included a standard for children, young people and their families or carers presenting to community-based mental health services to receive care within four weeks from referral. We are now working with NHS England and NHS Improvement on the outcome of the consultation.

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average waiting time in England for a first appointment with NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. [HL906]

Lord Kamall: The information requested is not collected centrally in the format requested.

Moreblessing Ali

Asked by Lord Oates

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Zimbabwe regarding (1) the abduction and murder of opposition political activist Moreblessing Ali, and (2) the steps being taken by the Zimbabwe authorities to investigate this. [HL908]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Minister for Africa and I [Lord Goldsmith] were appalled to hear of the murder of Moreblessing Ali. The British Ambassador in Zimbabwe publicly expressed her sadness at this tragic news and passed on our condolences to Moreblessing's family and friends. It is important that the Zimbabwe police continue to investigate her murder to establish the facts, and those behind this terrible crime are brought to justice. The Minister for Africa recently wrote to Foreign Minister Shava to reiterate the importance of demonstrable progress on the human rights and political reforms that the President of Zimbabwe committed to in his inauguration speech in November 2017.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Asked by Lord Blunkett

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to grant relief from the rules requiring vehicles registered overseas to be registered and taxed in the UK after a maximum period of six months for Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK in private vehicles; and, if they do not have such plans, whether they will extend the six month period for vehicle registration and taxation until the first to occur of (1) an application by Ukrainian refugees for permanent residence in the UK, or (2) three years after their arrival in the UK. [HL1139]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government is determined to ensure that Ukrainian arrivals encounter a warm reception in the UK, and the Department for Transport is presently engaging with DVLA colleagues to explore policy options, including possible options surrounding the vehicle registration fees for Ukrainian plated vehicles entering the UK.

My Department has also worked with the transport sector to provide wider assistance to those fleeing here from the conflict. Since mid-March 2022, all Ukrainians that enter the UK with the appropriate visa can travel on public transport from their port of entry to their end destination at no cost if travel occurs within 48 hours of arrival. This includes rail, bus and all Transport for London routes. To date, over 2,200 rail journeys have been made via the free onward travel offer, and many more on UK bus, coach and tram services. On the 20 June, this scheme was extended for a further six months.

Nigeria: Death and Missing Persons

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to discuss with the government of Nigeria the deaths and disappearances which followed an attack on four villages in the Kaduna state of Nigeria on 5 June. [HL931]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of the attacks in Kaduna state on 5 June. Increasing insecurity across Nigeria is having a devastating impact on affected communities. The UK Government condemns kidnappings across Nigeria, and calls for the release of those still held captive. We are in regular contact with the Kaduna State Government on instances of conflict and insecurity in the State, and continue to support dialogue and mediation activities in Kaduna, in partnership with the State Government. We also continue to urge and support the Nigerian Government to take action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence, and we committed to work together to respond to rising insecurity in Nigeria at our Security and Defence Dialogue in February.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to discuss with the government of Nigeria the increased targeting of clergy and church workers following a series of abductions in June. [HL932]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Rising insecurity in Nigeria, including reports that clergy and church workers have been abducted, is concerning. The UK Government is working with Nigeria to respond. At the first dialogue of our Security and Defence partnership in February, we agreed to work together to respond to security challenges including kidnaps. We are providing mentoring and capacity-building support to Nigerian Police Force units to improve their anti-kidnap capacity, to help reduce harm to victims, and to hold those responsible to account, in support of our shared objective of reducing kidnaps. The Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and our High Commissioner in Abuja, regularly raise insecurity in Nigeria in their meetings with the Nigerian authorities, and will continue to do so in future discussions.

Clergy and church workers deserve to work in safety, and all religious communities should be able to practice their faith without fear. The UK Government will continue to encourage the Nigerian Government to take urgent action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence, whilst also ensuring Freedom of Religion or Belief for all.

Nigeria: Religious Freedom

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the safety of, and freedom of religion for, Christians in Nigeria [HL909]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Nigeria's Constitution guarantees freedom of religion or belief. The security situation in Nigeria, and its impact on Christians and other religious or belief minorities is complex.

In the North East, terrorist groups such as Islamic State West Africa (ISWA) and Boko Haram have caused immense suffering to both Christian and Muslim communities. These groups seek to undermine the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) by indiscriminately attacking those of all faiths or beliefs who do not subscribe to their extremist views.

Elsewhere in Nigeria, intercommunal violence has had a devastating impact on both Christian and Muslim communities. Our assessment is that religious identity can be a factor in incidents of intercommunal violence, but the underlying drivers are more complex. These include competition over land and natural resources, which has been exacerbated by climate change, historical grievances, and criminality.

We will continue to make clear to the Nigerian authorities at the highest levels the importance of protecting civilians, including religious or belief minorities, and human rights for all Nigerians.

Northern Ireland Government

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial implications for Northern Ireland of the failure to form an Executive following the elections on 5 May: and whether they plan to introduce an emergency budget for Northern Ireland. [HL1182]

Lord Caine: The ongoing political situation in Northern Ireland is very disappointing. There is around £437m of additional funding, on top of the Block Grant, that the Government has made available but which has not been allocated to services as a result of the absence of an Executive. The setting of a budget is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive - that is why our priority is for the Northern Ireland Parties to restore fully functioning devolved institutions as soon as possible.

Nurses: Vacancies

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Royal College of

Nursing, Nursing Under Unsustainable Pressures: Staffing for Safe and Effective Care in the UK, published on 6 June; and what steps they intend to take in response to the findings in that report that (1) 83 per cent of respondents reported there were not enough nursing staff on their last shift to meet all patient needs safely and effectively, and (2) only 25 per cent of shifts had the planned number of registered nurses. [HL768]

Lord Kamall: The Government welcomes the publication of the Royal College of Nursing's report and shares its aim of a well-supported nursing workforce. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014, the Care Quality Commission ensures that providers comply with Regulation 18 on suitably qualified, skilled and experienced staff, who receive effective support, supervision and development and effectively deliver safe care which meets patients' individual needs.

The Government has also committed to deliver 50,000 more nurses and ensure the National Health Service can access a sustainable long-term workforce supply. We are currently on schedule to meet this commitment, with 30,000 additional nurses in March 2022 compared to September 2019.

Railways: Automation

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to fully automate train lines; and what discussions they have had with (1) local mayors, and (2) transport authorities, about automating tube and metro services. [HL1172]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: There are currently no plans to fully automate train lines. The Department for Transport is leading a joint programme with Transport for London to provide evidence-based recommendations on how best to progress with driverless trains on the London Underground.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Drugs and Vaccination

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to introduce (1) antiviral drugs, and (2) a vaccine, to address Respiratory Syncytial Virus. [HL912]

Lord Kamall: The monoclonal antibody palivizumab is currently offered by the National Health Service each winter to high-risk children for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) prevention, in line with guidance from the Joint Community on Vaccines and Immunisation (JCVI).

In addition, there are several RSV vaccines and monoclonal immunisations in phase three trials, from maternity and infancy to older adults. There are also antiviral treatments for RSV in clinical development,

including an antiviral treatment by Enanta Pharmaceuticals. Manufacturers are encouraged to provide information to the UK Health Security Agency and the JCVI as it becomes available, which are monitoring development of these trials. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for the approval of new vaccines and treatments.

Road Traffic Offences: Disqualification

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 21 June (HL860), how many times the Secretary of State for Transport as opposed to the courts was asked to decide whether a driver should be disqualified from driving in the last 10 years; and in how many of those cases the drivers were disqualified from driving as a result. [HL1179]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Secretary of State for Transport is not involved in making decisions on driving disqualifications. Only a court can order that an individual is disqualified from driving.

Smoking: Children

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the consumption by individuals under the age of 18 differs between smokers of tobacco and users of e-cigarettes or vapes. [HL1047]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government what concerns they have, if any, regarding the marketing of e-cigarettes and vapes to under-18s. [HL1048]

Lord Kamall: The Government collects statistics on smoking and vaping for 11 to 15 year olds through the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People survey. Due to the pandemic, the latest data available is from 2018, which shows regular use of vapes for 11 to 15 year olds at 3% and regular use of smoking cigarettes at 2%. Fieldwork for the latest survey is complete and due to be published later this year. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities collects data on vaping among 11 to 18 year olds, which will be published in its 2022 Vaping in England report shortly.

The regulatory framework for vaping aims to maximise the opportunities for adult smokers to convert from cigarettes while preventing non-smokers and young people from starting to smoke. The independent review into tobacco control measures led by Dr Javed Khan supports this approach. However, further measures have been recommended to discourage uptake among young people. We are considering the review's recommendations and continue to monitor the evidence

on use among young people and vaping regulations are kept under review.

Social Services

Asked by Lord Stevens of Birmingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so how, they measure changes over time in the supply of domiciliary social care relative to local need in each upper tier local authority in England. [HL967]

Lord Kamall: The Department does not measure the supply of domiciliary care relative to local need in local authorities in England. The Care Act 2014 recognises that local authorities are best placed to understand and plan for the care and support needs of the local population. Local authorities have a duty to shape care markets to ensure that a diverse range of high quality, sustainable, person-centred care and support services is provided. The Department monitors the number of domiciliary care agencies at national, regional and local authority level using monthly data collected by the Care Quality Commission.

Truphone

Asked by Baroness Pidding

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to monitor the sale of Truphone to ensure that it does not undermine (1) the UK's sanctions relating to Russia, or (2) the UK's national security. [HL1097]

Baroness Penn: Truphone Limited are not currently subject to financial sanctions.

Financial sanctions restrictions apply to any entity that is itself designated, or is owned or controlled directly or indirectly by a designated person. This includes where that person holds (directly or indirectly) more than 50% of the shares or voting rights in an entity, has the right (directly or indirectly) to appoint or remove a majority of the board of directors of the entity, or it is reasonable to expect that the person would be able to ensure the affairs of the entity are conducted in accordance with the person's wishes.

If any sanctioned individuals are due to receive funds as a result of the sale of a company which is not subject to financial sanctions restrictions, any funds they receive from a UK company or into a UK bank account will need to be frozen. A licence from the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) in HM Treasury would then be needed for any onward movement of such funds, otherwise breaches of financial sanctions restrictions may occur. Any suspected breach of financial sanctions should be reported to OFSI.

OFSI is the competent authority for implementing and enforcing the UK's financial sanctions. The maintenance of national security is a cross-departmental effort and any activity to monitor and intervene in matters of national security may be undertaken by departments other than HMT.

Venezuela: Migration and Human Trafficking

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the call by church leaders in Venezuela and Colombia on 24 May for renewed dialogue on migration and human trafficking. [HL885]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The UK supports efforts to ensure global migration is safe, orderly and regular, in line with the UN's Global Compact for Migration and the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2019, the UK Government has spent £37 million in humanitarian aid in response to the Venezuelan crisis. This is on top of our existing multilateral contributions to the UN-managed Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Global Fund, our core contributions to the UN and to the Red Cross movement. We were also the second largest donor to the Global Concessional Financing Facility for Colombia in 2019, providing £8 million as part of our overall response to help unlock concessional loans to support Colombia in continuing to host more than 1.5 million Venezuelans.

Diplomatic relations between Colombia and Venezuela are a matter for the two countries. We will continue to work through diplomatic channels to help the Venezuelans restore democracy and address the root causes of the crises they are facing.

Visas

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce delays in renewing visas for people already working and resident in Britain; and when they expect to give a decision on the case with the Home Office identification number 28287399. [HL940]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The ECAA team has made several changes to its operating process, meaning applications are being considered at a much higher number week on week. This has seen the work held reduce significantly.

We do not comment publicly on individual cases.

Wind Power: Seas and Oceans

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people to enter the offshore wind industry. [HL970]

Lord Callanan: Through the Offshore Wind Sector Deal, the Government secured a commitment from developers and supply chain companies to work together to increase the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people working in offshore wind to 9% by 2030, aiming for a higher 12% if feasible. This is starting from a

2020 baseline of 5%. This work is being taken forward by the Offshore Wind Industry Council.

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to meet their target of women making up at least one third of the offshore wind workforce by 2030. [HL971]

Lord Callanan: Through the Offshore Wind Sector Deal, the Government secured a commitment from developers and supply chain companies to work together to increase the number of women working in offshore wind to 33% by 2030, aiming for a higher 40% if feasible. This is starting from a 2018 baseline of 16%. This work is being taken forward by the Offshore Wind Industry Council.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....1	
Active Travel England.....1	Nigeria: Death and Missing Persons..... 12
Census 20211	Nigeria: Politics and Government 12
Children’s Homes.....2	Nigeria: Religious Freedom..... 12
Countering State Threats: Call-out Order.....3	Northern Ireland Government..... 12
Energy Supply Company Special Administration Regime.....3	Nurses: Vacancies..... 12
India Trade Negotiations3	Railways: Automation 13
Machinery of Government: Arbitration Policy4	Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Drugs and Vaccination..... 13
Nationality and Borders Act 2022: Implementation.....4	Road Traffic Offences: Disqualification..... 13
UK Covid-19 Inquiry4	Smoking: Children..... 13
Written Answers.....7	Social Services..... 14
Amoon and Qaisar Ayub7	Truphone..... 14
Asylum: Rwanda7	Venezuela: Migration and Human Trafficking.. 14
Boilers: Hydrogen7	Visas 14
British Business Bank.....7	Wind Power: Seas and Oceans 14
Bureaux de Change.....7	
Charities: Tax Allowances8	
Construction Contracts (England) Exclusion Order 2022.....8	
Development Aid.....8	
Duke of Sussex: Charter Flights.....9	
Evusheld9	
Gambling: Rehabilitation9	
Grenfell Tower: Fires9	
Hartismere Hospital.....10	
Health and Care Act 202210	
High Speed 2 Line: Euston to Glasgow.....10	
Horticulture: Seasonal Workers10	
Isa Muazu10	
Israel: Palestinians.....10	
Juries: Car Allowances11	
Mental Health Services: Children11	
Moreblessing Ali11	
Motor Vehicles: Registration11	