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WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Answers.....1

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<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 Answers

Friday, 8 July 2022

Afghanistan: Earthquakes

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what humanitarian assistance they are offering to those affected by the earthquake in Khost and Paktika Province in eastern Afghanistan on 22 June. [HL1239]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are deeply saddened to hear of the 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Paktika, Afghanistan, and our thoughts are with all those affected.

The UK is providing £2.5 million to help give immediate life-saving support to people in Afghanistan affected by the earthquake on Wednesday 22 June. £2 million will go to the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) Cross to provide shelter, healthcare, water and sanitation. The IFRC is already working on the ground to respond and help address the urgent humanitarian needs - including in Khost and Paktika, the two provinces most heavily impacted. A further £500,000 will go to the Norwegian Refugee Council to provide shelter and cash assistance to those affected. UK supported international partners, co-ordinated by the United Nations are delivering assistance and assessing ongoing humanitarian needs. The UK is in direct contact with them to offer assistance and stands ready to consider any requests for aid or support. UK funding is channelled through UN partners and NGOs and no funding goes to or through the Taliban.

Bangladesh: Disaster Relief

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will work with (1) British NGOs based in Bangladesh, and (2) the Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK, in order to maximise the impact of emergency relief provision. [HL1222]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK delivers emergency relief in Bangladesh principally through Start Fund Bangladesh. The Fund is accessible to local, national, and international member non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in Bangladesh to respond early to emergencies. We provided £195,000 to START Fund to support the response during the first wave of flooding in May. We contributed a further £442,500 after the second wave of flooding in June.

Bangladesh: Humanitarian Aid and Technical Assistance

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to provide emergency (1) technical, and (2)

humanitarian, assistance to Bangladesh following recent flooding in that country. [HL1221]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK stands with Bangladesh at this difficult time. We provided £195,000 to support the response during the first wave of flooding in May. We contributed a further £442,500 after the second wave of flooding in June. This funding will support the provision of cash assistance, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, search and rescue operations, shelter management and provisional education materials.

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Asked by *Baroness Finlay of Llandaff*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in formulating the draft Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (Amendment) Regulations 2022, they considered the impact of carbon monoxide poisoning arising from sources in adjacent properties; and why the draft Regulations do not include a requirement for audible carbon monoxide detectors in bedrooms where there is no fixed combustion appliance, except for gas cookers. [HL1273]

Lord Greenhalgh: In formulating the draft regulations, the Government considered national statistics on overall numbers of accidental carbon monoxide poisonings. This, and the falling costs of carbon monoxide alarms, supported the case to extend alarm requirements to include social housing, to rooms having fixed combustion appliances in both rented sectors and to rooms where fixed combustion appliances are installed all irrespective of heating fuel (excluding gas cookers). These regulations, which will provide parity between rented sectors, are applicable to dwellings where a landlord has responsibility for internal repairs and maintenance. They do not account for adjacent properties for which the landlord is not responsible. This decision was based on the evidence and the right balance between safety for residents and ensuring regulatory burdens are proportionate.

Requiring alarms in rooms with fixed combustion appliances will help to mitigate risks in other rooms, as alarms will detect and give audible warning of carbon monoxide before it has a chance to spread elsewhere. It would not be proportionate to mandate additional alarms in other rooms, including bedrooms, that do not contain a fixed combustion appliance.

Cycling and Walking

Asked by *Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 20 June (HL636), whether the data referred to are published; and if so, where they can be found. [HL1276]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: This statistic was based on internal analysis of National Travel Survey data. The data is released annually by the Department for Transport

in many forms and formats, with the data required for this particular analysis made available to researchers under special licence via the UK Data Service. A table containing the full breakdown of journeys of less than 5 miles in towns and cities by transport mode is due to be published alongside the next annual statistical release for the survey, in August 2022, on GOV.UK.

Driving: Disqualification

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many drivers in each of the last 10 years have applied to reduce their driving disqualification period; and how many of those applications were successful. [HL1420]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) role is to update and maintain the drivers' database with driving endorsements, including disqualifications, that are imposed by the courts. The DVLA will amend information on an individual's driver record when it receives authorisation to do so from the court.

There are 173,432 drivers on the DVLA's database whose disqualification period has been reduced by the court following the completion of a rehabilitation course for an alcohol related driving offence in the last ten years.

In addition, there are 317 drivers where the courts have asked the DVLA to remove a disqualification in the last ten years. This occurs where an individual has successfully applied to the court that originally dealt with the offence to have the disqualification removed.

East Coast Main Line: Railway Signals

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the announcement of funding for the East Coast Digital Programme, what is the (1) timescale for completion, and (2) cost analysis, of that project. [HL1360]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Work has already started on the programme following an initial investment of £350m at the OBC stage in 2020. This has been primarily used to design and retrofit digital technology onto rolling stock. Infrastructure work has also commenced on the Northern City Line a branch of the ECML running from Moorgate to Finsbury Park which is acting as a test bed for the rest of the line. This first area will have signals away and entry into service in the mid-2020s. Following the further investment announced by the government of £950m for the programme, infrastructure works, business change activities for operators as well as fitment of this technology to locomotives will accelerate. Final signals away for the rest of the mainline covered by this investment is in the early 2030s.

In developing the business case for the programme, cost estimates were developed bottom-up, using pricing information supplied by industry partners. These estimates were then scrutinised by Network Rail using the

3 Lines of Defence approach, which includes independent analysis. The result of this analysis shows that over a 60-year appraisal period the programme will deliver "high value-for-money" over its lifetime.

Electric Scooters: Hire Services

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of the trials of rental e-scooters, they gather information on car ownership and car usage from those hiring e-scooters; and if so (1) whether they do so from all individuals hiring e-scooters, and (2) whether individuals hiring e-scooters are asked whether they would otherwise have made their journeys by car. [HL1357]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Department for Transport has in place a national monitoring and evaluation programme for the e-scooter trials. This programme is drawing from range of data, including surveys with rental e-scooter users.

As part of the user surveys, we have collected evidence on whether users own or have regular use of other types of vehicle, including car. This information has been collected from user survey respondents specifically. We have also collected evidence on mode shift to rental e-scooters from other forms of transport, including car. The findings report from this evaluation is due to be published later this year.

Electric Vehicles: Safety

Asked by Baroness Crawley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require motor manufacturers to add a noise component to electric cars to help visually impaired people to hear approaching vehicles. [HL1340]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Requirements to fit sound generators, known as Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems (AVAS), are mandatory for new electric and quiet hybrid-electric vehicles. These requirements ensure that vehicles that can be operated on electric power only will always produce a minimum level of noise.

India: Internally Displaced People

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the government of India to secure resettlement for those required to leave protected forest areas in (1) Kerala, and (2) other states. [HL1185]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are aware of recent reports regarding the resettlement of those required to leave protected forest areas. Where we have concerns, we raise them directly with the Government of India, including at Ministerial level. The British High Commission in New Delhi and our network of Deputy

High Commissions will continue to follow these reports closely, while recognising that this is a matter for India.

The British Deputy High Commissioner in Bangalore met the Chief Secretary of Kerala on 7 June 2022 where they discussed sustainable development, amongst other topics.

Joint Consultative Working Group

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the work of the UK–EU Joint Consultative Working Group. [HL1362]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Joint Consultative Working Group is established by the Northern Ireland Protocol as part of the governance arrangements for the Protocol, though it is not empowered to take any decisions other than to adopt its own rules of procedure. The Government is clear that as those broader governance arrangements do not include any structures for UK or NI representatives to have a say in EU rules, a democratic deficit has been created whereby rules are made and imposed on Northern Ireland with no say in the matter.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times the UK–EU Joint Consultative Working Group has met; and when it will next meet. [HL1363]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The meetings of the Joint Consultative Working Group (JCWG) are confidential; however, Article 15(5) of the Northern Ireland Protocol provides that it shall meet at least once a month, unless otherwise decided by the EU and the UK by mutual consent.

Ports: Energy Supply

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to develop a strategy for deploying (1) shore power, and (2) electric recharging infrastructure, at UK ports, harbours and marinas. [HL1384]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to enable the deployment of technologically mature but presently economically unviable decarbonisation technologies, such as shore power. [HL1387]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: We made a commitment in the Transport Decarbonisation Plan to consult on the appropriate steps to support and, if needed, mandate the uptake of shore power in the UK. We conducted a call for evidence between 7 February and 25 April. My officials are currently analysing the responses and will publish a summary in due course. We recognise the barriers to the uptake of shore power, and we will be using the evidence provided in the call for evidence responses to inform our

policy development. We intend to publish a further consultation on specific proposals of shore power later this year.

We will aim to publish a Government response to the shore power consultation as part of the refresh of the Clean Maritime Plan in 2023.

Railways: Standards

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish estimates of train delays caused by (1) infrastructure, (2) operators, and (3) any other causes, since 2017. [HL1361]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Estimates of delay minutes to train operating companies by responsibility and cause, are produced on a periodic basis (every four weeks) by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR). This data is available from ORR's Table 3184, "Delay minutes by operator and cause (periodic)" and can be accessed from the ORR's data portal.

Russia and Rwanda: War Crimes

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what budget they allocate to (1) the support they are providing to Ukraine in response to investigating alleged Russian war crimes committed in that country, and (2) investigating alleged Rwandan war criminals living in the UK. [HL1441]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Russia's use of indiscriminate force against innocent civilians in Ukraine amounts to war crimes. Those must be investigated and those responsible must be held to account. The UK led efforts to refer the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is for the ICC Prosecutor to independently determine who should be prosecuted for war crimes committed in Ukraine. The UK will provide the necessary support to the ICC, including through £1 million in funding and technical assistance. In addition to supporting the ICC investigation, the Attorney General led a scoping mission to the region in May, to assess how UK Government Departments can assist Ukraine's domestic investigation into war crimes.

Regarding alleged Rwandan war criminals in the UK, an ongoing Metropolitan Police Service investigation into five alleged Rwandan genocidaires remains a priority for the Police, Home Office and wider UK Government.

Shipping

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the recommendations contained within the Maritime UK and Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group Maritime UK: Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto, published in September 2021. [HL1385]

Asked by Lord Jones of Cheltenham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help the maritime sector realise the ambitions set out in Maritime 2050: Navigating the Future, published on 24 January 2019 and updated on 12 September 2019. [HL1386]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government is determined to deliver for the maritime sector and our coastal communities. We are working hand in hand with industry to achieve this by delivering on the recommendations of Maritime 2050. We have recently published the Maritime Recovery Route Map, setting out actions that Government and industry will take to enhance skills, achieve Net Zero, harness technology to innovate, strengthen infrastructure, and boost our competitive advantage. This, coupled with the steps set out in the recently published Future of Freight Plan, will help us and industry drive levelling up across the country, meeting the aspirations of the Coastal Powerhouse Manifesto.

Southeastern Rail Franchise

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government, following their decision to remove Southeastern's railway franchise, what process was followed to ascertain the problems concerned; and what investigations they have conducted to ensure other rail franchises have not experienced similar financial irregularities. [HL1358]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: An independent committee led by the chairs of Go-Ahead Group and Keolis appointed external lawyers and accountants to conduct an investigation. The Department had input into the scope of the investigation, which was developed on an iterative basis. In addition to taking account of the independent committee's investigation, the Department raised questions of LSER and of key individuals at LSER, its owning groups and GTR - and also required the provision of documents and information. The Department has drawn its own conclusions from all these materials, in particular the contemporaneous underlying evidence and has set out its rationale for imposing a penalty in the publicly available penalty notice.

The Department commissioned an external financial adviser to undertake a review into payments between the Department and a sample of TOCs, and those TOCs and their affiliates. This review is considering inter alia whether money has flowed correctly and whether those payments have been correctly accounted for. This work continues to progress.

Taxis: Disability

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 21 June (HL Deb col 53GC), when they will publish guidance for

taxis and private hire vehicles regarding a more inclusive and accessible service; and when they will introduce legislation to make disability awareness training compulsory for taxi and private hire vehicle drivers. [HL1429]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: On 28 March, the Department published a consultation on updated best practice guidance for local licensing authorities, which advises that every driver should complete disability awareness training. The consultation has now closed, and officials are carefully considering the responses received in order to finalise and publish the substantive guidance document.

The Department remains committed to introducing mandatory disability awareness training for taxi and PHV drivers through new National Minimum Standards for licensing authorities when Parliamentary time allows.

Trains: Consumer Information

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will implement their plan to "remove repetitive and unnecessary onboard announcements on trains", announced on 21 January; and whether this will include the message "See it, say it, sorted." [HL1422]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: Operators are working to remove unnecessary announcements from their automated systems in line with existing maintenance schedules, with work due to complete by the end of 2022. Passengers will already be hearing fewer automated announcements on some routes, alongside a reduction in 'live' announcements as onboard staff have been issued with updated guidance.

Messages that play a safety critical role, or that ensure the railways are accessible for all, will remain. This includes 'See it, Say it, Sorted'.

Tunisia: Oppression

Asked by Lord Hannan of Kingsclere

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Tunisia about its recent crackdown on dissent, including (1) the trial of civilians before military courts, (2) the use of the death penalty, and (3) the prosecution of opposition MPs. [HL1080]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We regularly raise human rights with the Tunisian authorities, and will continue to do so. We are aware of reports of the trial of civilians before military courts. We are monitoring legal cases being brought against politicians from the parliament and previous governments, including allegations of irregularities in the 2019 elections. We also engage regularly with government leaders in the country, most recently on 8 June when I [Lord Ahmad] met with President Kais Saied.

Wilton Park: Northern Ireland

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

To ask Her Majesty's Government what individuals and organisations they invited to the conference A more confident and inclusive Northern Ireland, hosted by Wilton Park from 22 to 24 June; and if this did not include the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools or the Controlled Schools' Support Council, on what grounds they were omitted. [[HL1283](#)]

Lord Caine: The Wilton Park conference considered a broad range of issues, including skills, education, economic opportunity, and social integration, rather than schools or educational matters alone.

Wilton Park conferences are held under the Chatham House Rule and it would not be appropriate for the Government to disclose those who participated.

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