

**Session 2022-23**  
**No. 36**



**Friday**  
**15 July 2022**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

**Written Statements .....1**

**Written Answers.....5**

[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/>

Members who want a printed copy of Written Answers and Written Statements should notify the Printed Paper Office.

This printed edition is a reproduction of the original text of Answers and Statements, which can be found on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>.

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

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2022

This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence, which is published at [www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/)

# Written Statements

Friday, 15 July 2022

## Firearms Safety Consultation

[HLWS205]

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My hon Friend the Minister of State for Crime and Policing (Tom Pursglove) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

The Government has today published its response to the consultation held on firearms safety, which sought views on a number of measures responding to issues raised during the passage of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 through Parliament. The consultation contained proposals for how to mitigate the risks to public safety raised by these issues. The consultation closed on 16 February 2021 and more than 12,000 responses were received.

Our firearms laws are some of the toughest in the world and ensuring public safety through effective firearms control is a priority for the Government. Having carefully considered the responses received to the consultation, we have decided to introduce a range of measures to strengthen the controls.

The Government will:

- Strengthen security requirements to mitigate the risk of theft of High Muzzle Energy rifles by requiring enhanced security for the secure storage and transportation of these particularly powerful firearms. This measure will be implemented by means of an order made under section 53 of the Firearms Act 1968;
- Help safeguard young people against the misuse of air weapons by legislating to clarify the offence of failing to take ‘reasonable precautions’ to prevent minors from having air weapons so that whenever under-18s are on the premises, ‘reasonable precautions’ must include locking the air weapon out of sight when not in use and storing the ammunition separately. This change will be implemented by means of an order under section 53 of the Firearms Act 1968. We will also work with the airgun industry to ensure that home security devices are supplied with all new air weapons, and that retailers explain the importance of secure handling and storage to purchasers of new air weapons at the point of sale;
- Tighten the control of miniature rifle ranges by requiring operators to obtain a firearm certificate and limiting such ranges to the use of .22 rimfire weapons. Primary legislation to implement these changes will be brought forward when parliamentary time allows; and
- Tackle the unlawful manufacture of ammunition by introducing a new offence of possessing component parts with intent to assemble unauthorised quantities of complete ammunition. Primary legislation to implement this new offence will be brought forward when parliamentary time allows.

The Government also gave very careful consideration to the views put forward in relation to the proposal to remove the exception that permits unsupervised possession of air weapons by under 18s on private land with the occupier’s consent. This proposal was opposed by a majority of respondents and, on balance, the Government has decided not to proceed with it at this time. However, we will keep the matter under careful review with the possibility that further action could be taken in future.

On 20 June 2022, a Firearms Bill was put forward in the House of Commons as a presentation Bill. It was ordered that the Bill should be drafted and ready for Second Reading in March 2023.

A copy of the Government’s response to the firearms safety consultation has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available on the Government’s website at gov.uk.

## Government Transparency and Accountability

[HLWS207]

**Lord True:** My Rt Hon Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and HM Paymaster General (Michael Ellis QC MP) has today made the following statement:

Since 2010, the Government has been at the forefront of opening up data to allow Parliament, the public and the media to hold public bodies to account.

Such online transparency is crucial to delivering value for money, cutting waste and inefficiency, and ensuring every pound of taxpayers’ money is spent in the best possible way.

The government will continue to look at how the range of information published by the government can be improved and made as useful as possible to the public, press and Parliament.

The following subject areas include documents and information on government publications. Copies of associated documents can be found on GOV.UK.

The government has also undertaken a range of work in response to reports by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and Nigel Boardman, detailed below.

### *Ministerial Transparency*

Departments have published routine quarterly Ministerial data on external meetings, gifts, hospitality and overseas travel.

### *Transparency on Special Advisers and Senior Officials*

Special advisers are a critical part of the team supporting Ministers. They add a political dimension to the advice and assistance available to Ministers, while reinforcing the impartiality of the permanent civil service by distinguishing the source of political advice and support.

In line with legislation, each year the Cabinet Office lays in Parliament and publishes a list of special advisers and their costs. Today, the Cabinet Office will be laying in Parliament and publishing the list of special advisers in post as of 30 June, along with the annual cost of special advisers over the financial year 2021-22.

Departments have published quarterly data on gifts and hospitality received by special advisers, as well as information on special adviser meetings with senior media figures.

Routine quarterly data on hospitality, expenses and meetings of senior officials and on business appointment rules advice has also been published by departments.

#### *Ministerial Guidance on Commercial Involvement*

The Government Commercial Function will be publishing Ministerial guidance on commercial involvement. A separate written ministerial statement on this will also be made. This sets out Ministerial guidance through four stages of commercial activity, from before procurement starts to supplier and contract management post contract award. It also offers advice on how to maximise the value of Ministerial involvement while maintaining the necessary safeguards.

#### *COVID absence statistics*

The Cabinet Office has been compiling cross-government management information on absences due to COVID-19 within the Civil Service since the start of the pandemic. The data includes sickness absences and special paid leave. In October 2021, we published the top level data on GOV.UK. We have now completed the data collection and plan to add the final 9 months of data to the existing publication. We will continue to collect sickness absence data related to COVID-19 through our business as usual absence collection which we publish on an annual basis.

#### *Government Response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life and Nigel Boardman*

The government has been considering the *Standards Matter 2* report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, alongside Nigel Boardman's report on the use of Supply Chain Finance in government.

In relation to recommendations in both reports that the government should improve its processes for ensuring compliance with conflicts of interest rules, on 24 June 2022 the Cabinet Office issued new guidance on the declaration and management of outside interests in the Civil Service. Further work is underway to ensure senior officials within government departments are aware of their compliance responsibilities, and have access to relevant training and support on compliance issues.

The government has also implemented Nigel Boardman's recommendations on government contracts and the use of Supply Chain Finance in government. The Government's Model Services Contract, reissued on 11 April 2022, includes new provisions covering suppliers' potential conflicts of interest, while HM Treasury guidance on novel financing arrangements, issued on 18

March 2022, states that supply chain finance schemes require explicit approval and should rarely be used.

The *Statement of Government Policy: Standards in Public Life*, published on 27 May 2022 detailed the government's reforms to the role and remit of the Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests. In deciding on these reforms, the government carefully considered the relevant recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The government is also taking action to improve the enforcement of the Business Appointment Rules. Mechanisms are now in place for breaches of the rules to be taken into account in the award of honours. Agreement on a similar approach is being sought with the independent House of Lords Appointment Commission and the government is now considering how to implement the same approach in relation to public appointments. Alongside this, the government is considering consequences for prospective employers including through the procurement process.

Work on further reforms, including those proposed by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and Nigel Boardman, continues and will be informed by the new Prime Minister.

This statement responds to the motion passed by the House on 7 June 2022, *Official Report*, Column 728, and Ministers will undertake to further update the House in due course.

## **Guidance to Ministers: Participation in Government Commercial Activity**

[HLWS208]

**Lord True:** My Rt Hon Friend the Minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency (Jacob Rees-Mogg MP) has today made the following statement:

Representing around a third of public expenditure, contracts for goods and services with the external market are essential to the delivery of Government policy. The new Procurement Bill, introduced to Parliament on 12 May 2022, creates a simpler and more flexible commercial system that better meets our country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations. Ministers have the opportunity to participate fully in this system with certain safeguards to protect them from the risk of legal challenge.

This guidance note stresses the benefits of Ministerial involvement in commercial activity; early involvement in upcoming procurements so that Ministers can specify what they want, including choosing how opportunities are presented to the market, and shaping the market to optimise the response; engagement with bidders during the procurement process so that they can hear of Ministerial priorities directly; and working with suppliers to ensure that they deliver to contract.

The guidance also covers:

- How to interact safely with potential vendors, preserving the principle of equal treatment;
- How to use declarations of interest to maintain necessary transparency; and
- How Ministers can be involved with suppliers during the execution of contracts without prejudicing their department's contractual rights.

Experience during the Covid-19 response showed the value of Ministerial engagement in commercial activity but also some of the risks, with a number of legal challenges based on the alleged direct involvement of Ministers in selection decisions. Simple safeguards can reduce this risk while enabling Ministers to participate fully in commercial activity and maximise the value to government of contracts and supplier relationships.

The note updates guidance circulated to Ministers by the former Minister for the Cabinet Office in 2014. This revised guidance has been shared for comment and approval with current and former Ministers, Sir Nigel Boardman (in the context of his reviews of Covid-19 commercial activity), and a number of Non-Executive Directors from across government. It has also been signed off by the Cabinet Secretary and the Propriety and Ethics team. All were supportive of the need for clarity in this area, and the guidance has been through several iterations to ensure inclusion of cross-government views and expertise.

The guidance will be published on GOV.UK and complements measures contained in the new Procurement Bill, but sits outside the Bill and the Ministerial Code. I have requested that a copy of the guidance be deposited in the libraries of both Houses in Parliament.

## International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief: London 2022

[HLWS204]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** On 5 and 6 July 2022, Fiona Bruce MP, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and I hosted the fourth International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London.

The Conference and its associated fringe brought together government delegations, faith and belief group leaders and civil society from over 100 countries for rich discussions to address challenges to the right to FoRB.

The Conference explored the many facets of FoRB through seventeen themed panel sessions and gave a platform to those persecuted for their religion or belief. Forty-seven governments, international organisations and other entities made pledges to take action in support of FoRB. Thirty-four countries joined the UK in signing up to one or more of a set of [statements](#) protecting and promoting FoRB. We hope more countries will join these statements over the coming weeks.

The opening plenary session received contributions from: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales; the Prime Minister; Secretary General of the Muslim World League, His Excellency Sheikh Al-Issa; Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad; the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby; Chief Rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis; President of Humanists International, Mr Andrew Copson; Spiritual Leader and Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jutha, Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, and President of the Hindu Forum of Britain, Mrs Trupti Patel.

In her opening speech, My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Elizabeth Truss) outlined FCDO progress in implementing recommendations from the Bishop of Truro's 2019 report and noted the breadth of religion and belief groups that suffer from persecution.

I announced new UK funding for support for defenders of FoRB, including those persecuted because of their activism, as well as funding and expertise for countries prepared to make legislative changes to protect FoRB.

The Conference was an important human rights milestone which galvanised international efforts to do more to protect and promote the right to FoRB. The challenge now is to turn words into action. We will do this through building coalitions of government and civil society actors focussed on key themes from the Conference, drawing on the convening power of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance.

Working alongside the Special Envoy, the FCDO will continue to work on this important human rights issue and build on momentum from the Conference to champion global efforts on FoRB.

## Levelling Up Fund: Second Round of Applications

[HLWS206]

**Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist:** My Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Greg Clark) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am today opening applications for the next round of the Levelling Up Fund. This second round of the £4.8 billion fund will allocate further funding to communities across the United Kingdom, including investments in town centres and high streets, local transport upgrades and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

Prospective applicants have been developing their bids since the publication of the prospectus on the 23rd of March 2022. In order to allow time for submission of bids via the online portal applications will be accepted until midday on Monday 2 August.

It is important that the Government understands which bids enjoy the support of their local Members of Parliament, who represent their constituents. In order to

reflect that some parliamentary constituencies cover more than one council area, every Member of Parliament in Great Britain will have the option to provide priority support to up to two bids.

I am determined to ensure that important Levelling Up measures like the Levelling Up fund will be implemented at pace, and I encourage everybody to submit their bids for the fund now.

## Written Answers

Friday, 15 July 2022

### Cheltenham General Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Asked by *Lord Jones of Cheltenham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Cheltenham General Hospital about reinstating a full doctor-led 24/7 service at its Accident and Emergency department; and if there are plans to reinstate that service, what is the timetable for doing so. [HL791]

**Lord Kamall:** There have been no specific discussions. Cheltenham General Hospital operates a consultant-led accident and emergency service between 8am and 8pm and a specialist nurse-led service between 8pm and 8am. This has been in place since 2013, following a public consultation and examination by the local Health Oversight Scrutiny Committee.

### Disability: Equality

Asked by *Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 21 June (HL Deb col 56GC), when they plan to consult on the feasibility of a pilot scheme testing the (1) advantages, and (2) disadvantages, of extending cost protection to disability claims. [HL1477]

**Lord Bellamy:** The Government is continuing to consider the possibility of consulting on a pilot scheme examining the advantages and disadvantages of extending costs protections to disability claims. This is an important issue that requires careful consideration, and we will set out the way forward in the coming months.

### Fisheries

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the UK enforces fishing access rights in its waters. [HL1377]

**Lord Benyon:** All vessels fishing in UK waters must have a licence issued by the relevant UK licensing authority and must comply with the relevant legislation. The Marine Management Organisation monitors fishing activity in English waters and carries out dedicated enforcement and surveillance activity, including through the use of offshore patrol vessels for at-sea surveillance. Where vessels do not comply with these rules, enforcement action can be taken against them.

### Fishing Catches

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what incentives they are providing to the fishing industry in order to reduce discards. [HL1333]

**Lord Benyon:** The UK Government is committed to ending the wasteful practice of discarding. Fisheries is a devolved matter, but we seek to work collaboratively with the Devolved Administrations to achieve the best outcomes for the UK as a whole.

On 27 June 2022, we launched a consultation on managing quota in 2023 and beyond. This includes options for using quota to incentivise better behaviours. Reducing discards could form part of this.

Alongside this, we are speaking with industry and other stakeholders about discards reform. This includes consideration of incentives. We will run a formal consultation later in the year.

### Fishing Catches: Software

Asked by *Lord Browne of Belmont*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the effectiveness of the fishing catch recording service. [HL1334]

**Lord Benyon:** Fisheries is a devolved matter and the information provided therefore relates to England only. Defra works closely with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) who manage the fishing catch recording service widely known as the 'Catch App'. The Catch App is used to gather catch information for under 10m fishing vessels which make up approximately 80% of the English fleet.

At present, Catch App compliance by fishermen is at its highest level since its introduction and now sits at 89% across England. Building on this high level of compliance, the Government is now working on three key steps to ensure the effectiveness of the Catch App. These are "review, engage and enforce".

Firstly, the MMO reviews the implementation of the Catch App through direct feedback from fishermen and via Marine Officers who engage in dockside visits with fishermen. The MMO uses these inputs to inform on any improvements required to the app functionality in order to increase the benefit to fishermen.

Secondly, the MMO engages with fishermen to familiarise themselves with the way the Catch App works, increase their ability to enter accurate data, comply with the requirements and use the functionality of the app for their own benefit.

Thirdly, in 2022 after over two years of review and engagement, the MMO has moved to a phase of enforcing the licence condition requiring fishermen to use the Catch App to ensure that fishermen submit records for each trip.

The Catch App ensures the MMO has a more comprehensive picture of catches from English waters than ever before. This data informs fisheries management, improves traceability, and helps inform decisions on marine developments where previously the inshore fleet did not have data to support their views.

### Great British Railways: Staff

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff are expected to be located in the selected Great British Railways headquarters; and how many of the present Network Rail staff based in Milton Keynes working on (1) signalling, (2) timetabling, (3) maintenance and renewal, and (4) other areas, will be asked to move to the selected Great British Rail headquarters. [HL1475]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The national headquarters for Great British Railways will be home primarily to corporate functions and teams that will enable regional and devolved teams to operate efficiently and effectively.

Further work is needed to establish the exact make-up and number of staff for the national headquarters. Centres of excellence, such as the Quadrant in Milton Keynes, will still be needed to help deliver the railway of the future.

### High Speed 2 Line: Euston Station

*Asked by Lord Berkeley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will (1) place in the Library of the House plans and other documentation demonstrating that the latest design for the HS2 tunnel approaches to Euston Station is within the limits of deviation specified in the High Speed Rail (London–West Midlands) Act 2017, or (2) set out how the changes to the design and the Environmental Statement are within the scope of the Act; and what plans they have to consult on these changes. [HL1419]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The latest design for works within Euston Approaches are within the limits of deviation specified in the High Speed Rail (London–West Midlands) Act 2017. It should be noted that these designs are well developed, but not yet finalised in all areas. As the design of the Euston Tunnels is developed and finalised, HS2 Ltd will continue to check that it is compliant with the scope and requirements prescribed in the Act and the Environmental Statement. HS2 Ltd has engaged with affected parties in the development of the current design and will continue to do so through to delivery of the work.

### Housing: 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 52GC), when they will introduce the standards

and a regulatory framework to deliver accessible new homes. [HL1428]

**Lord Harrington of Watford:** As set out by Baroness Stedman-Scott, Government has consulted on options to raise the accessibility of new homes and we have been considering all responses and evidence to inform how we can best improve standards. We will be setting out our plans in a government response to the consultation in due course.

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 21 June (HL Deb col 56GC), when they plan to implement the findings of the research they have carried out on Part M of the building regulations. [HL1478]

**Lord Harrington of Watford:** As set out by Baroness Stedman-Scott, Government is conducting research as part of a full review of Part M. The research is still ongoing and once completed will help government consider, in due course, changes to statutory guidance to the building regulations covering access to and use of buildings.

### Matrimonial Property

*Asked by Baroness Deech*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement the recommendation included in the Law Commission report Matrimonial Property, Needs and Agreements, published in 2014, that "qualifying nuptial agreements should be introduced by legislation"; and whether they plan to introduce the Draft Nuptial Agreements Bill included in that report. [HL1425]

**Lord Bellamy:** We are taking forward our commitment to review the legislation surrounding financial provision following divorce. Nuptial agreements are one element of this and any decision to introduce new legislation, including the draft Bill provided by the Law Commission in 2014, will be considered against the context of the wider review.

### Motor Sports: Racial Discrimination

*Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take, alongside sporting bodies and associations, to address racism in motorsport. [HL1366]

**Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Racism has no place in society. Her Majesty's Government is committed to working with our arm's length bodies, sporting bodies and sector partners to ensure sport does all it can to tackle racism and all forms of discrimination.

We were extremely dismayed to hear about the recent racist remarks made about Sir Lewis Hamilton but commend Formula 1's zero-tolerance approach to



harassment and discrimination. Alongside work under Formula 1's anti-racist platform [We Race As One](#), their swift condemnation of Nelson Piquet's racist remarks has led to their decision to implement a life-time ban on his attendance at races. In addition, the British Racing Drivers' Club has suspended Mr Piquet as a member, citing its zero-tolerance policy toward racism and stating it expects formally to terminate his membership at a board meeting to be held within seven days.

Last year we also welcomed the work of the Royal Academy of Engineering and Sir Lewis Hamilton which is aimed at improving the representation of Black people in UK motor sport. However there is still more to do, and we will continue to work across Her Majesty's Government and with sector partners to ensure that inequalities people from ethnically diverse backgrounds face in sport, including motorsports, are being tackled effectively.

### **NHS: Incentives**

*Asked by **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff***

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 22 June (HL620), why the decision was made to remove central funding of the local clinical excellence awards scheme from 31 March; what assessment they have made of the impact this change will have on clinical academies; and why the planned amendment of Schedule 30 to include clinical academies within the group with a contractual entitlement to apply for such awards was abandoned. [HL1234]

**Lord Kamall:** From 2018 to March 2022, the Department was involved in tripartite negotiations between employers, the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association to reform local clinical excellence awards. However, the proposal was rejected by the executive committees of the trades unions and the negotiations concluded without agreement.

National Health Service trusts are therefore reverting to the arrangements in Schedule 30 of the consultant contract, agreed with the BMA in 2018. This does not alter the funding and eligibility position for clinical academics and represents a continuation of existing provisions.

### **Private Rented Housing**

*Asked by **Lord Truscott***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the supply of accommodation in the private rented sector; and in particular, of the effect of ultra-short term lets on the availability of longer-term rental tenancies. [HL1467]

**Lord Harrington of Watford:** Our key indicator on the size of the private rented sector is the English Housing Survey. The most recent headline report states that in 2020-21, the private rented sector accounted for 4.4

million or 19% of households in England, unchanged from 2019-20, but lower than in 2015-16 (20%). Renting is more prevalent in London where 27% of households lived in the private rented sector in 2020-21 (compared to 17% of households in the rest of England).

The sharing economy has brought many benefits to the tourism sector and wider economy, as well as creating an additional income stream for homeowners. However, we recognise that the increase in short-term letting has also prompted some concerns. These include the impact on the housing market and local communities, and a sense that new entrants in the market are not being held to the same health and safety standards as, for example, hotels and B&Bs. The Government committed in the Tourism Recovery Plan published in June last year to consult on a possible Short Term Accommodation Registration Scheme in England. A call for evidence as the first stage of that consultation process was published on 29 June and runs until 21 September. We want to hear from a wide range of stakeholders, including local authorities, in order to build a much-needed evidence base on these issues and enable us to develop proportionate policy responses. We ideally want to strike a balance between the benefits of the sharing economy and the concerns of the impacts on some communities, alongside ensuring consistency in quality among the range of different tourism accommodation providers.

### **Private Rented Housing: Students**

*Asked by **Lord Truscott***

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the proposals in the Renters Reform Bill on the availability and supply of student accommodation in the private rented sector. [HL1465]

**Lord Harrington of Watford:** The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has used consultation feedback and extensive stakeholder engagement to understand the impact of proposals of the Renters Reform Bill on the availability and supply of student accommodation in the private rented sector.

The proposed reforms will support student households who have children or local roots to remain in their properties after studying if they wish to, whilst students living in privately-run purpose-built student accommodation will be governed by the same rules as those in university-owned accommodation, given the specific purpose of this housing.

We will continue to consider the impact of our reforms as we move towards legislation and will publish a full impact assessment in due course.

### **Social Services: Migrant Workers**

*Asked by **Baroness Altmann***

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many social care workers earning more than £20,480 they estimate will be recruited from overseas as a result of the new

immigration visa rules; and what proportion of staff vacancies are expected to be filled further to those rules. [HL1301]

**Lord Kamall:** No specific estimate has been made. However, we are working with Skills for Care and the Home Office to produce guidance and seminars to equip adult social care providers with necessary tools and information to recruit successfully from overseas.

### **Vaccination: Pupils**

*Asked by Lord Knight of Weymouth*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the coverage levels of school-based (1) tetanus, (2), diphtheria, (3) polio, and (4) COVID-19, vaccination programmes; and what steps they are taking to increase such coverage. [HL1277]

**Lord Kamall:** The combined tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccine coverage in year nine cohorts in 2020 to 2021 was 76.4%, compared to 57.6% in 2019 to 2020 and

87.6% in 2018 to 2019. In addition, updated data for the year 10 cohort in the 2020 to 2021 academic year estimated coverage at 80.3%. This is a 22.7 % increase for the same cohort when in year nine in 2019 to 2020. No specific assessment has been made of COVID-19 vaccine uptake as it is not solely delivered in a school-based setting.

To achieve high coverage, vaccinations programmes are co-ordinated nationally, using highly trained staff with improved access to vaccine information. An out-of-school offer is in place to enable eligible children and young people to receive their COVID-19 vaccination at the nearest available vaccination centre. All providers continue to work with NHS England and NHS Improvement, with clinical advice from the UK Health Security Agency, to deliver all missed school-aged vaccinations. National Health Service school-aged immunisation providers are now resuming educational activities, such as school assemblies, to educate students of the benefits of routine NHS immunisation programmes.

## Index to Statements and Answers

### **Written Statements.....1**

Firearms Safety Consultation .....	1
Government Transparency and Accountability ....	1
Guidance to Ministers: Participation in Government Commercial Activity .....	2
International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief: London 2022 .....	3
Levelling Up Fund: Second Round of Applications.....	3

### **Written Answers.....5**

Cheltenham General Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments .....	5
Disability: Equality.....	5
Fisheries.....	5
Fishing Catches .....	5
Fishing Catches: Software.....	5
Great British Railways: Staff.....	6
High Speed 2 Line: Euston Station .....	6
Housing: Disability.....	6
Matrimonial Property .....	6
Motor Sports: Racial Discrimination.....	6
NHS: Incentives .....	7
Private Rented Housing .....	7
Private Rented Housing: Students .....	7
Social Services: Migrant Workers.....	7
Vaccination: Pupils.....	8