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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

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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 Harrington of Watford	Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lord Kamall	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Whip
Baroness Penn	Whip
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Whip
Lord Sharpe of Epsom	Whip
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
Lord True	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Minister of State, Home Office
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Monday, 18 July 2022

AI: Pro-innovation Approach to Regulation

[HLWS209]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries MP:

The Government is today publishing a paper setting out its emerging pro-innovation approach to regulating Artificial Intelligence. The UK can provide clarity and confidence to our AI ecosystem as well as ensuring the public and consumers are protected.

At the heart of our approach is a steadfast commitment to ensuring the UK is a place where AI companies can innovate, grow, and flourish. In areas from transport to healthcare, our AI ecosystem is driving forward new research, scientific breakthroughs, and growth across the nation. This policy paper seeks to shape the transformational effects of this critical technology: to unleash growth and innovation while safeguarding our fundamental values and keeping people safe.

The success of our AI sector is in no small part due to the UK's reputation for high quality regulation and the rule of law. However, as AI continues to develop, a transparent, clear, and coherent regulatory regime must develop with it. Government believes that a pro-innovation approach is needed to create clarity for businesses and investors, while also taking proportionate steps to address existing risks posed by AI and standing prepared to identify and mitigate new risks as they emerge.

This policy paper sets out the building blocks of a regulatory framework that is coherent but flexible and can apply to AI's vast range of uses across different industries. It will support our regulators in addressing new challenges in a way that is proportionate, supports innovation and drives growth. This pro-innovation, pro-growth ethos will continue to inform policy development as we develop and refine the approach set out in this paper.

It is essential that we get this approach right, and I look forward to hearing views from the House on our proposals. We will also be seeking the views of AI experts across business, civil society, academia and beyond, as we work towards the publication of a full AI Governance White Paper later in the year.

A copy of the paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme: Public Consultation

[HLWS212]

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

The Government is today launching a consultation on reforming the Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme – part of the ambitious work to tackle illegal migration we are delivering through our New Plan for Immigration.

Illegal migration is facilitated by serious organised criminals exploiting people and profiting from human misery. The same criminal gangs and networks are also responsible for other illicit activity ranging from drug and firearms trafficking to modern slavery and serious violent crimes. A significant number of people, who arrive in the UK through concealment in vehicles by tourist and freight transport routes, have had their entry illegally facilitated by organised criminal gangs. Despite extensive work with overseas partners to strengthen our shared borders and enhance our strategic partnerships, this method of entry continues and endangers the lives of those involved. In many cases, this is a result of criminal gangs and opportunistic migrants taking advantage of unsecured or poorly secured vehicles to smuggle people or enter the UK illegally.

For these reasons, the UK operates a scheme to tackle illegal migration called the Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme. The Scheme means that when clandestine entrants are found concealed in a vehicle, a penalty of up to £2,000 per entrant can be imposed on any responsible person connected to the vehicle in question, up to a maximum aggregate of £4,000 in total per clandestine entrant. A responsible person is defined as the owner, hirer or driver of the vehicle. The Scheme applies to all vehicles, commercial and private, as well as anything that is designed to be towed or carried by a vehicle (such as trailers, caravans, containers etc). In circumstances where the driver is employed by the vehicle owner or hirer, such as an HGV, the employer is also liable for the driver's penalty. The penalty level has not been changed for nearly twenty years.

During the financial year 2020-2021, there were 3,145 incidents where clandestine entrants were detected concealed in vehicles, despite the Covid-19 pandemic causing a lower volume of traffic. This rose to 3,838 incidents during the financial year 2021-2022. The Government is therefore concerned that the Scheme is not having enough of an effect, as drivers are not taking the steps required to secure vehicles, and clandestine entrants are continuing to use these routes to enter the UK.

It is for this reason that the Government committed to review and overhaul the Scheme as part of its New Plan for Immigration. A public consultation on the New Plan for Immigration was held from 24 March to 6 May 2021.

The Government then introduced changes to the Scheme through the new Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

The changes under the 2022 Act include narrowing the statutory defences available to those who have carried a clandestine entrant. This means that where a clandestine entrant has been carried, it will no longer be a statutory defence to say that an effective system for preventing the carriage of clandestine entrants was in operation, and that person may still be issued with a penalty. However, if the person has complied with regulations to be issued by the Secretary of State, which will require them to take actions to secure their transporter, report unauthorised access and keep records to show they took these steps, this could mean the level of the penalty is reduced.

The 2022 Act also introduces a new civil penalty for failing to adequately secure a goods vehicle, regardless of whether a clandestine entrant has been found. The Secretary of State will also make regulations which set out what is meant by a goods vehicle being adequately secure and the required vehicle security standards that will determine whether liability arises under this new offence. These may include vehicle checks, reporting unauthorised access and retaining records to demonstrate steps taken.

Before any of these regulations can be made under the 2022 Act, the Secretary of State has a statutory duty to consult with such persons as she considers appropriate. The Government has also agreed to consult on the level of penalty for the new offence of failing to adequately secure a goods vehicle, with a view to bringing into operation a new Level of Penalty: Code of Practice. The Secretary of State is now discharging these obligations through this consultation, which is designed to seek the views of all interested parties on these issues and others connected with the Scheme. The consultation will run for eight weeks and will close on 12th September 2022.

Alongside the consultation, the Home Office will be running a series of engagement events to explore these issues in more detail. If you would like to join an engagement event, please email:

Clandestine

EntrantCivilPenaltyConsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk

The closing date to express an interest in joining an engagement date is 19th August 2022.

We welcome your views and look forward to hearing from you.

A copy of the consultation will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and also made available on GOV.UK.

Covid-19 and Flu Vaccines: Eligibility

[HLWS214]

Lord Kamall: My Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Vaccines and Public Health) (Maggie Throup) has made the following Written Statement:

The COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to protect the nation against the virus. As of 13 July 2022, over 149 million doses have been administered in the UK, including over 53.6 million first doses, over 50.2 million second doses and over 40 million third primary or booster doses in the UK. This represents uptake of 93.3% for the first dose, 87.4% for the second dose and 69.6% for the third primary and booster doses in the UK. During the spring campaign, data to 10 July shows over 4 million over 75s received a further dose in England. Up to 10 July, over 85% of those eligible by the end of May, had received a spring booster, ensuring that the most vulnerable in our society have recent protection.

On 15 July, Her Majesty's Government accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) regarding the COVID-19 vaccination campaign for autumn 2022. The JCVI's advice is that a COVID-19 booster vaccine should be offered to:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group including pregnant women, as set out in the UK Health Security Agency's (UKHSA) Green Book Chapter 14a - Tables 3 and 4
- Persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- Persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers, as set out in the UKHSA's Green Book Chapter 14a - Table 3

The final eligible groups are broader than those announced in the JCVI's interim advice in May. The committee considered the recent epidemiology of the BA.4 and BA.5 waves, as well as the benefits of aligning the COVID-19 programme with the flu vaccine rollout, concluding that expanding the offer would provide necessary protection to those at higher risk of severe illness and keep greater numbers of people out of hospital.

All eligible groups are encouraged to take up the vaccine when the time comes, even if they have had a spring booster, to give themselves the best possible protection against severe outcomes of COVID-19 this winter.

In addition, the Department of Health and Social Care will once again be offering the free flu vaccine to additional groups. These groups will only be eligible once the most vulnerable, including previously announced pre-school and primary school children, those aged 65 years and over and those in clinical risk groups, have been offered the jab.

The additional groups set to be offered the free flu vaccine in England will be:

- All adults aged 50 to 64 years.
- Secondary school children in years 7, 8 and 9, who will be offered the vaccine in order of school year (starting with the youngest first).

The National Health Service will announce in due course when and how eligible groups will be able to book an appointment for their COVID-19 autumn booster, and when people aged 50 to 64 years old who are not in a clinical risk group will be able to get their free flu jab.

Data Protection and Digital Information

[HLWS211]

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

Today, the Government is introducing the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill in the House of Commons. The Bill is being introduced after the Government published its response to the Data: A New Direction consultation on 17th June 2022.

We now have the opportunity to seize the benefits of Brexit and transform the UK's independent data laws. We have designed these new updates to our data protection framework so it works in our interests, protects our citizens, and unburdens our businesses.

Through this Bill we will realise the opportunities of responsible data use whilst maintaining the UK's high data protection standards. The EU does not require countries to have the same rules to grant adequacy, so it is our belief that these reforms are compatible with maintaining a free flow of personal data from the European Economic Area.

Our Bill will improve people's lives in many different ways. Firstly, we are increasing fines for nuisance calls and texts that break the rules. Telecoms network providers will also be required to notify the ICO when they have reasonable grounds for believing that unsolicited direct marketing is occurring on their networks.

Reforms to the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations will also remove the need for cookie banner pop ups for low risk activities, such as audience measurement, so it's easier for businesses to use information to improve their services. The Bill will also pave the way for the removal of irritating banners for other types of cookies when browser-based or similar solutions are sufficiently developed.

The Bill will bring some everyday physical processes into the 21st century. It will be easier and more secure to use digital identities, which give people more choice and greater security when they want to prove things about themselves online or via apps instead of with physical documents. We will improve government data sharing to improve public services for businesses, and the Bill will also update the way births and deaths are registered by clerks, moving from a paper-based system to an electronic register used by officials.

Our reforms to data protection laws will mean that UK scientists are no longer needlessly impeded by overcautious, unclear rules on how they can use people's personal data. We will simplify the legal requirements around research, which will provide scientists the clarity and confidence they need to get on with life enhancing and life saving research.

We are reducing the burdens on businesses that have held the UK back from the benefits of greater personal data use before now. By focussing on outcomes not box-ticking, we will unburden businesses from prescriptive requirements and empower them to protect personal data in the most proportionate and appropriate way. Our changes could create around £1 billion in business savings over ten years.

The Bill will sustain and scale the UK's approach to supporting international data flows by capitalising on its independent status to strike partnerships with some of the world's fastest growing economies. Reforms will ensure that the mechanisms to transfer personal data internationally are secure and flexible to help British businesses grow.

The structure and objectives of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) will be modernised so that it remains an internationally renowned regulator, including increased investigatory powers to help it keep pace with changing practices. New strategic objectives will have an emphasis on economic growth and innovation, while ensuring the ICO continues to produce high-quality codes of practice, and has the flexibility to allocate its resources appropriately. The ICO will remain operationally independent while enabling the public and parliament to more effectively hold it to account through key performance indicators.

Reforms will also confirm that elected representatives may process general personal data where necessary for the purposes of democratic engagement activities. The intent is to allow MPs, councillors and political parties to undertake the democratic engagement activities they have done for decades (such as opinion surveys of local residents, and targeted letters to constituents), without the unnecessary complexity and confusion of the EU's GDPR. This builds on measures in the Data Protection Act 2018 which received broad cross-party support at the time.

The Bill will improve the efficiency of data protection for law enforcement and national security partners – encouraging better use of personal data where appropriate to help protect the public. Our proposed reforms create greater consistency between general, law enforcement and national security data processing. They will provide agencies with clarity on their obligations, boosting the confidence of the public on how their data is being used. These changes are vitally important for the work of our law enforcement and national security agencies who process personal data in the public interest, to prevent crime and safeguard national security.

New information standards for IT products and services supplied to the health and adult social care sector will ensure these are interoperable to make it easier for staff to access the information they need to help their patients.

The powers included in the Bill allow Government departments to establish sector based Smart Data schemes with supporting regulation, to ensure consumer and business protection. This is the secure and consented sharing of customer data with authorised third-party providers. These approved providers then use this data to deliver innovative services for the consumer or business, such as automatic bank account switching. This saves time, money and effort for customers who can more easily find and choose better-suited deals.

Loot Boxes in Video Games

[HLWS210]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am repeating the following Written Ministerial Statement made today in the other place by my Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Nadine Dorries MP:

The [Government response](#) to the call for evidence on loot boxes in video games has been published on GOV.UK.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK is one of the safest places to be online, and this includes video games. We want all players, especially children and vulnerable people, to have the tools and information they need to enjoy games safely.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launched a call for evidence on loot boxes in video games in September 2020, in light of concerns about the potential for loot boxes to cause harm.

The call for evidence received over 32,000 responses to a player survey, and 50 submissions from organisations and individuals. We are thankful to the organisations and individuals, including players and parents, who responded to the call for evidence. In addition, the Government commissioned an independent Rapid Evidence Assessment of academic literature on loot boxes, which was conducted by InGAME in 2021.

The Government response sets out findings from the call for evidence. The call for evidence identified a range of potential harms associated with the purchase of loot boxes, though a causal relationship is yet to be evidenced. This includes harms which have been associated with gambling, but also a range of other potential mental health, financial and problem gaming related harms. The evidence suggests that the risks of harm are likely to be higher for children.

In response to the findings from the call for evidence, the Government wants to see improved protections for children and adults with regards to loot boxes, and better longer term research into the impacts of video games. The Government's view is that:

1) purchases of loot boxes should be unavailable to all children and young people unless and until they are enabled by a parent or guardian;

2) all players, including children, young people and adults, should have access to and be aware of spending controls and transparent information to support safe and responsible gaming; and

3) better evidence and research, enabled by improved access to data, should be developed on the positive and negative impacts of video games to inform future policy making on loot boxes and video games more broadly.

DCMS will convene a technical working group to pursue enhanced industry-led solutions to mitigate the risk of harms for children and young people and adults from loot boxes in video games. In addition, we will work with academics and other partners to launch a Video Games Research Framework.

The Government response has been developed alongside our review of the Gambling Act. We will continue to keep the position set out in the Government response under review, considering any new and emerging evidence on loot boxes and harms, progress made in strengthening industry-led protections, and any specific proposals on how statutory protections could be enhanced. We will not hesitate to consider legislative options if we deem this necessary to protect children and adults.

I will be placing a copy of the Government response to the call for evidence in the Libraries of both Houses, and this response has been published on GOV.UK. The Rapid Evidence Assessment of academic literature on loot boxes, conducted by InGAME, has also been published on GOV.UK.

Swift, Certain, Tough: New Consequences for Drug Possession

[HLWS213]

Baroness Williams of Trafford: My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Today, I am pleased to announce the publication of a white paper, 'Swift, Certain, Tough: new consequences for drug possession' and accompanying public consultation, which has been laid before the House (CP 723). It has also been published on GOV.UK.

As set out in the 10-year Drug Strategy, published in December 2021, we are committed to exploring options for tackling so-called recreational drug use. This white paper does just that and proposes new sanctions to deter people from illicit drug use and change attitudes. Fundamental to this new regime is that drug users face greater consequences than they do today. And whilst we want consequences to be tough, we also want them to be fair, meaningful, and appropriate.

The white paper sets out a combination of proposals for legislation, as well as broader areas for reform on which we invite consideration. We propose a new escalatory three tier framework for drug possession offences which will apply to all drug users, except where users have a drug dependence where treatment is the most relevant intervention.

Three Tiers

Where appropriate, those caught for a first-time drug possession offence will be placed in Tier 1 and issued with a fixed penalty notice. This requires them to either attend a drugs awareness course (paid for by the individual), or, if they do not attend the course, to pay a financial penalty.

For those who do not change their behaviour and are caught for a second time they will progress to Tier 2. In this tier, the offender would be offered a caution which would include, where proportionate, a period of mandatory drug testing alongside attendance at a further stage drugs awareness course.

Should an individual be caught for a third time, they move to Tier 3 and we expect them to be charged with the relevant offence. To ensure the courts have the right powers to change behaviours of drug offenders, we propose introducing a new civil court order to enable a range of conditions to be imposed, including: (i) exclusion order; (ii) drug tagging; (iii) passport confiscation; or (iv) driving licence disqualification.

Progression through the Tiers should always be linear. We would not expect an individual to start with a Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention or indeed ‘jump’ from Tier 1 to Tier 3. The escalatory framework gives individuals the opportunity to understand the harms of illicit drugs better and to reflect on their behaviour and the harm they are doing to themselves and to wider society. Should they nevertheless continue to offend, consequences will escalate.

Drug Testing on Arrest

Given our focus is on reducing drug demand, we must take any opportunity to reach individuals and provide the

right interventions. Therefore, this white paper also proposes some important changes to drug testing on arrest powers to ensure the police can drug test more individuals than today. Drug testing on arrest is not about further criminalising drug users, but about identifying those who use drugs where their drug use may be a causal factor in their criminal behaviour and intervening to help them to change their behaviour. To achieve this we are therefore proposing to:

- 1) Expand the types of drugs that can be tested for to include a wider range of Class A drugs;
- 2) Expand the types of drugs that can be tested for to include drugs in other classifications where relevant, and in particular cannabis as the most widely used illicit drug; and
- 3) Expand the number of ‘trigger offences’ that can lead to drug testing on arrest.

The proposed legislative changes will apply to both drug testing on arrest and to drug testing on charge.

Consultation

Given many of the changes will require primary legislation, we believe the right approach is to publish a consultative white paper. We will therefore open a formal consultation period on the document today for a period of 12 weeks. I would encourage parliamentary colleagues to review the document and the consultation, and to make relevant organisations in their areas aware. Consultation responses will be thoroughly analysed and taken into consideration before finalising any policy.

This white paper represents a significant step in reducing overall drug use towards a historic 30-year low and shows we do not shy away from proposing new interventions to do this. Ultimately these sanctions are aiming to change behaviour and reduce demand for drugs. We want people to lead healthier lifestyles and we want them to stop putting money into the pockets of dangerous drug gangs who fuel violence in our communities.

We are utterly steadfast in our determination to grip this problem and, ultimately, turn the tide on illegal drugs.

Written Answers

Monday, 18 July 2022

A12: Speed Limits

Asked by *Lord Marlesford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why a 10-mile section of the A12 between Ipswich and Colchester has a 40 mile per hour speed limit; and when this section will return to its previous speed limit. [HL1568]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: A temporary 40 mph speed limit is in place on the A12 between Marks Tey and the Four Sisters Interchange as National Highways is currently carrying out a programme of works. These works include resurfacing, barrier replacement, drainage renewal, replacing road studs and road markings and, other safety improvements.

Whilst the works are predominantly carried out during carriageway closures overnight, the 40mph speed limit is currently in place during the day to ensure the safety of road users whilst the works are still incomplete. National Highways anticipates that this temporary speed restriction will be in place until September 2022 when the works are expected to be completed.

Abortion

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include within the Bill of Rights Bill provision for women across the UK to have access to safe abortion. [HL1434]

Lord Bellamy: The position on abortion is settled in UK law and it is rightfully decided by Parliament. It is an issue of conscience, and the Government has no current plans to introduce this issue into the Bill of Rights. We should be mindful of finding ourselves in the US position, where the issue is litigated through the courts, rather than settled as it is here by Parliament. Health Services across the UK are responsible for providing access to safe and legal abortion within the framework of the law.

Agriculture: Employment

Asked by *The Earl of Leicester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many (1) vacancies, and (2) roles, there were in the farming sector, in each month of 2022. [HL1696]

Lord True: A response to the noble Lord's Parliamentary Question of 12 July is below and attached.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

The Earl of Leicester House of Lords London SW1A 0PW

18 July 2022

Dear Lord Leicester,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate has been made of how many (1) vacancies, and (2) roles, there were in the farming sector, in each month of 2022 (HL1696). The Office for National Statistics produces statistics on both vacancies and jobs in our Vacancies and Jobs statistical publication[1]. Within this publication, estimates of both vacancies[2] and jobs[3] are produced by industry, according to the Standard Industrial Classification 2007. Within the classification, the closest industry to "farming" would be Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. With the data available, unfortunately it is not possible to provide estimates of the number of vacancies held by agricultural businesses. This is because the vacancy survey excludes businesses within the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry, owing to the disproportionate costs involved as the industry mainly consists of very small businesses with few vacancies. We are however exploring the use of online job advert data to provide better insights into labour demand by occupation, and we are hoping to publish these insights later this year.

Statistics on jobs are published on a quarterly basis and for agriculture, forestry and fishing are based on estimates of first and second jobs, either as employees or as self-employed, as measured by our Labour Force Survey[4]. As it is a survey of people within private households, it is based on respondents correctly classifying themselves within the right industry. Our most recent publication in June covered data up to March 2022 when we estimate there to have been 329,000 jobs within the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry[5]. This represented a fall of 13,000 from the previous period (December 2021), and a fall of 79,000 when compared with its pre-pandemic level in December 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

1

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/vacanciesbyindustry/vacs02>

2

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/vacanciesbyindustry/vacs02>

3

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/vacanciesbyindustry/vacs02>

4

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/labourforce>

5

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/vacanciesbyindustry/vacs02>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA response [UKSA_Response_to_POHL1696 (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-07-12/HL1696>

Armed Forces: Pastoral Care

Asked by Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider religious chaplains qualified to offer pastoral support to non-religious armed forces personnel; and if so, why. [HL1437]

Asked by Lord Low of Dalston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of non-religious pastoral care in the armed forces of the Kingdoms of Norway, Belgium, and the Netherlands; and whether they will consider introducing a similar model in the UK. [HL1438]

Baroness Goldie: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a diverse population, including personnel with a range of beliefs and faith, and those who have no religion. Military Chaplains are selected and trained primarily because of their ability to show empathy to all Service personnel. They are professionally qualified to provide pastoral care to everyone, regardless of faith, world philosophy or status and will provide or facilitate spiritual support to personnel and their families as requested. Service personnel who do not wish to talk to a Chaplain for faith/belief/philosophical reasons are encouraged to seek spiritual support from a variety of alternative sources, which can be facilitated by the Chaplain. This includes their Chain of Command, through the Services' professional social workers, medical staff, welfare staff. Mutual support is also available via the various staff networks, including the Humanist and Non-Religious in Defence (HAND) Network.

The MOD is aware that the Armed Forces of Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands employ humanist pastoral carers (or similar). We are working to create and sustain an environment where everyone feels respected and able to achieve their full potential. We have recently concluded a review of the provision of non-religious pastoral support for our Armed Forces and are currently considering the recommendations of that review and how best we can support all our people.

Blue Badge Scheme: EU Countries

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government with which EU countries they have negotiated mutual recognition of the disabled persons blue parking badges. [HL1670]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton:

The Government remains committed to confirming the status of UK issued Blue Badges for motorists visiting Europe. Twenty countries have already committed to recognising Blue Badges and are listed on Gov.uk.

Discussions continue with a number of countries. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the progress of discussions while they are on-going.

Blue Badge Scheme: Spain

Asked by Lord Bowness

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 17 May (HL32), when they last discussed mutual recognition of the disabled persons blue parking badges with the government of Spain; and what outstanding issues are preventing mutual recognition. [HL1671]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: At a recent discussion with Spain, Blue Badge recognition was considered as part of wider negotiations on a driving licence exchange agreement but ultimately this was not an appropriate mechanism and the Government is considering alternatives.

Bridges: Great Musgrave

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask Her Majesty's Government why National Highways has not provided the information requested by Mr Graeme Bickerdike in response to his Freedom of Information request made on 10 May regarding Great Musgrave Bridge (FOI/3614); what were the reasons for their public comments about the motives of Mr Bickerdike in making that request; and whether they will now supply the information requested. [HL1577]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Freedom of Information (FoI) Act request submitted by Mr Bickerdike was dealt with by National Highways and deemed to be of a vexatious nature under the terms of the FoI Act and Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance. National Highways has therefore refused to respond to further FoI requests regarding infilling from Mr Bickerdike.

An internal review of this refusal was requested by Mr Bickerdike and this was completed and issued by National Highways. The internal review has to be sent to the address that requested it, in this case Mr Bickerdike has made his requests via the 'What Do They Know' website which is a public forum accessible by anyone. National Highways therefore provided the response to the email address requested and this resulted in it being accessible to the public at large. As explained in the replies from National Highways, Mr Bickerdike can also refer the complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision.

Bulb Energy: Insolvency

Asked by *Lord Sikka*

To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) what is the total cost to date for their support for Bulb Energy, and (2) what estimate they have made of the final cost of that support. [HL1458]

Lord Callanan: The Government is working closely with the Energy Administrators to minimise any costs to the exchequer and billpayers. In the progress report to creditors on 15 June, the Energy Administrators confirmed that £901m has been drawn down to meet the cost of the Energy Administration to date.

The Energy Administrators estimated at the outset of the SAR that £1.7bn of Government finance would be required. The £1.7bn figure remains the overall facility limit. This is an estimate, and the final cost of the SAR could change in either direction given energy price volatility.

Car Allowances

Asked by *Lord Forsyth of Drumlean*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Penn on 4 July (HL Deb), whether they will increase the allowable mileage rate for employees using their own vehicles for business purposes from 45 pence per mile, given the increased cost of fuel. [HL1432]

Baroness Penn: The Government sets the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAP) rates to minimise administrative burdens. The AMAP rates aim to reflect running costs including fuel, servicing and depreciation. Depreciation is estimated to constitute the most significant proportion of the AMAP rates. Fuel costs only contribute to a fraction of the AMAP rates and not the total rate.

Employers are not required to use the AMAP rates. Instead, they can agree to reimburse the actual cost incurred, where individuals can provide evidence of the expenditure, without an Income Tax or National Insurance charge arising.

Alternatively, they can choose to pay a different mileage rate that is higher or lower than the AMAP rates. If an employee is paid less than the approved amount, they are allowed to claim Mileage Allowance Relief (MAR) from HMRC. However, if the payment exceeds the relevant AMAP rate, and this results in a profit for the individual, they will be liable to pay Income Tax and National Insurance contributions on the difference.

As with all taxes and allowances, the Government keeps the AMAP rates under review and any changes are considered by the Chancellor.

Care Homes: Vacancies

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the data released by Skills for Care on 10 June that showed that (1) care home companies, and (2) local authorities, have high vacancy rates and are struggling with staff shortages within care homes. [HL1611]

Lord Kamall: We continue to monitor the monthly data released by Skills for Care with other operational data sources which indicate staff capacity in adult social care.

Skills for Care advise that its monthly data is unweighted and may not be representative, as it reflects those care providers which have updated the adult social care workforce dataset. The data does not include local authority staff responsible for assessments and the commissioning of care.

Community First Responders

Asked by *Lord Bach*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they provide to NHS Community First Responders; and what steps they are taking to improve public awareness of the work done by First Responders. [HL1370]

Lord Kamall: National Health Service ambulance trusts are responsible for the deployment of volunteer Community First Responders and provide the appropriate training, equipment, oversight and support to volunteers. There are no specific centralised campaigns to raise awareness.

Cystic Fibrosis: Mental Health Services and Social Workers

Asked by *Lord Sharkey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of (1) paediatric cystic fibrosis centres, and (2) adult cystic fibrosis centres, in England employed (a) a social worker, and (b) a clinical psychologist, as part of their multi-disciplinary team, for each year since 2015. [HL1539]

Lord Kamall: The information requested is not held centrally.

Department of Health and Social Care: Social Workers

Asked by *Lord Laming*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the most senior post in the Department of Health and Social Care that is occupied by a qualified social worker with experience of working in local government. [HL1496]

Lord Kamall: The Chief Social Worker for Adults, Lyn Romeo, is a qualified and registered social worker.

Developing Countries: Malaria

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk of the resurgence of malaria over the next three years in relation to health system strengthening, following the publication of the International Development Strategy. [HL1449]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In 2020, there was the first significant increase in malaria cases and deaths in two decades and we recognise the risk of further resurgence of malaria. Health systems strengthening is critical to reducing this risk. As set out in the International Development Strategy, global health is a priority for UK development policy and programming and within this we will particularly focus on strengthening health systems to improve the resilience of health systems to shocks such as pandemics and to ensure continued progress on malaria and other diseases.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of their programmes to prevent malaria in pregnancy, following the publication of the International Development Strategy. [HL1450]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As set out in the International Development Strategy and our global health position papers, global health is a priority for UK development policy and programming. Within this we will particularly focus on strengthening health systems and ending the preventable deaths of mothers, newborns, and children. Our bilateral health programmes will take consideration of malaria's disproportionate impact on pregnant women and children under five as a key driver of preventable deaths, and will strengthen health systems to deliver quality malaria prevention and treatment. Our investment in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria also delivers large scale malaria interventions for pregnant women and children.

We also fund research on combatting malaria, including for mothers, babies and children. For instance, our funding to the Medicines for Malaria Venture supports their Malaria in Mothers and Babies strategy, which aims to scale up the availability of preventive malaria treatment in pregnancy and generate evidence on the use of existing antimalarials throughout pregnancy.

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what their strategic priorities are in relation to malaria, following the publication of the International Development Strategy. [HL1451]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As set out in the International Development Strategy and our global health position papers, global health is a priority for UK

development policy and programming. Within this we will particularly focus on strengthening health systems and ending the preventable deaths of women, newborns, and children. Tackling malaria is closely linked with the UK's ambition on ending preventable deaths, as the disease predominantly impacts pregnant women and children under 5. Our focus on health systems strengthening is key to sustainably tackling malaria and other diseases. Our health programming and investments on these themes will continue to account for malaria's disproportionate impact on these demographics.

Energy: Price Caps

Asked by Lord Sikka

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish a table showing (1) the breakdown of the Supplier of the Last Resort (SOLR) levy, and (2) the amount that each customer pays for each component of that levy, through their energy bills. [HL1457]

Lord Callanan: The independent energy Regulator, Ofgem, is responsible for administering the SOLR process and sets the levy for how costs are recouped, following consultation with stakeholders. In February, Ofgem announced the level of the price cap for April 2022 which included £68 for supplier of last resort costs. More detail can be found on Ofgem's website.

Flexible Working

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 21 June (HL Deb col 54GC), when they will respond to the September 2021 consultation conducted by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on making flexible working the default. [HL1430]

Lord Callanan: The Government will publish its response to the consultation on flexible working in due course.

Foreign Investment in UK: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to date to attract inward investment into Northern Ireland in 2022. [HL1483]

Lord Caine: The Government is committed to promoting investment into Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Office Minister of State, Conor Burns attended Northern Ireland Day at the Dubai Expo earlier this year where he promoted Northern Ireland businesses already exporting globally, including White's Oats, Kiverco and Greenfields, as well as meeting Sovereign Wealth Funds to promote the fantastic investment opportunities in Northern Ireland. Representatives of

these Funds have been invited to visit and explore investment opportunities in areas of mutual interest.

Northern Ireland Office Ministers and the Special Envoy to the United States on Northern Ireland also undertake frequent visits to the United States to promote the benefits of business in Northern Ireland and attract investment. Northern Ireland is already the number one international investment location for US Cyber Security firms, and the UK Government aims to build on this great potential.

Also, through the New Deal for Northern Ireland we have invested £8 million into expanding Invest NI's presence overseas, with posts in Tokyo, Singapore and Guangzhou already underway, enhancing Northern Ireland's investment opportunities. In addition, the Department for International Trade has opened a Northern Ireland hub in Belfast, offering bespoke support for Northern Ireland businesses, including looking to attract investment.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of (1) the response of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) the Fund's role in future pandemic preparedness. [HL1448]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Global Fund is a high performing organisation that, with partners, has saved 44 million lives to date. The UK is proud to be the organisation's third largest donor historically, investing £4.1 billion since 2002. The Global Fund responded quickly and effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing the COVID-19 Response Mechanism. This mechanism has raised over \$4.3 billion to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on programs to fight HIV, TB and malaria, and work with national response plans to support urgent improvements in health and community systems. The UK allocated an additional £60 million to the mechanism this year to support diagnostic and oxygen supplies. As an active member of the Board, the UK is supporting the Global Fund to define its evolving role on Pandemic Preparedness and Response within its new 2023-2028 strategy.

Google and Meta: Profits

Asked by Baroness Stowell of Beeston

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the excess profits generated by (1) Meta, and (2) Google, in the UK from online advertising; and whether they will direct the Competition and Markets Authority to update their calculations in the Online platforms and digital advertising study, published in July 2020. [HL1588]

Lord Callanan: The Government has no plans to direct the Competition and Markets Authority, which is an independent regulator, to update the calculations in its online platforms and digital advertising study. However digital competition is a priority for the Government as shown by our plans to address the far-reaching power of the biggest tech firms, through a new pro-competition regime for digital markets as reaffirmed in the consultation response published on 6 May.

Hartismere Hospital: Community Diagnostic Centres

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 28 June (HL985), which community diagnostic centres have already been identified in Suffolk and which are under consideration. [HL1342]

Asked by Lord Framlingham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 28 June (HL985), whether Hartismere hospital in Suffolk is under consideration as a community diagnostic centre. [HL1343]

Lord Kamall: There are currently no existing community diagnostic centres (CDCs) in Suffolk and potential locations remain under review. NHS England's discussions with local integrated care systems, diagnostic networks and primary care services have considered Hartismere Hospital as a potential site for a CDC. However, these locations will be determined alongside wider system plans for providing more accessible diagnostics to the local population, including potential sites in Ipswich and Newmarket.

Health Professions: Recruitment

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 27 June (HL1046), what plans they have to record data on the number of health care professionals who were hired from countries graded as red by the World Health Organisation. [HL1321]

Lord Kamall: We have no plans to do so.

We collate data from published sources to monitor the patterns of staff joining the National Health Service who have trained outside the United Kingdom. This includes data from the Nursing and Midwifery Council's register and the Electronic Staff Record's information on the nationality of staff.

Iraq and Syria: Yazidis

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there has been genocide of

the Yazidi people at the hands of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. [HL1412]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Turkey about its obligations to prevent genocide against the Yazidi people; and what discussions they have had with the UN Security Council about referring Turkey to the International Criminal Court in respect of allegations of genocide within its territory. [HL1413]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to the prevention and punishment of genocide as appropriate under the Genocide Convention, to which the UK is party. It is the long-standing policy of the British Government that any judgment as to whether genocide has occurred is a matter for a competent national or international court, rather than for governments or non-judicial bodies. However, this policy does not inhibit the UK from taking robust action to address the egregious human rights abuses committed by Daesh.

We condemn in the strongest terms the atrocities committed by Daesh against all civilians, including Yazidis, Christians, and other minorities, as well as Muslim populations in Syria and Iraq. We note the conviction in a German court on 30 November 2021 of a former Daesh fighter for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. We are following this case and its review closely. We will continue to use our position at the UN, including as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, to raise situations of concern and to support the deployment of all appropriate tools available to the UN in dealing with potential mass atrocities. Our focus is always on securing an end to violence and protecting civilians.

Jobcentres: Training

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allow Jobcentre Plus to use the expansion of work coach capacity to introduce specialist single parent advisers. [HL1464]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is committed to providing the best possible support for all our claimants. We are continuously reviewing and improving the service to ensure that it is accessible and responsive to their needs.

Our Work Coaches undergo a comprehensive learning journey designed to equip them with the tools, skills and behaviours required to provide a high quality, efficient service to all claimants including Lone Parents. They receive on-going learning in their roles and have access to guidance which is refreshed at regular intervals. The Department's learning products emphasise the importance of treating each claimant as an individual in order to identify and meet their specific needs, whatever they may be.

Additionally, Jobcentre staff have access to a District Provision Tool which provides access to the full range of provision and support delivered by DWP, providers, local authorities and independent volunteer/charity organisations. However, if Work Coaches are unable to identify local provisions that meets the needs of the claimant, they liaise with DWP Partnership Managers, who have the flexibility to work alongside local organisations to source appropriate provision helping our claimants to access the support they need.

Medical Treatments

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 17 June (HL645), whether an agenda for NHS England's Clinical Priorities Advisory Group's next meeting has been finalised; and if so, when the agenda will be shared with stakeholders. [HL1396]

Asked by Baroness Masham of Ilton

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Kamall on 17 June (HL645), whether an agenda for NHS England's Clinical Priorities Advisory Group's next meeting has been finalised; and if so, when it will be shared with relevant stakeholders. [HL1440]

Lord Kamall: The agenda has been finalised and made available to relevant stakeholders.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Asked by Lord Hay of Ballyore

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the amount of funding delivered to community mental health projects in the last two years. [HL1484]

Lord Kamall: While no formal assessment has been made, we have committed to invest at least an additional £2.3 billion a year to expand mental health services in England by 2023/24, including community mental health support.

In 2020/21, we provided £500 million to accelerate plans to improve National Health Service mental health provision. This included £15 million for prevention and early intervention in over 250 local projects promoting better mental health and wellbeing in 40 of the most deprived local authority areas in England. We also provided an additional £10.2 million to support mental health charities, including Samaritans and the Campaign Against Living Miserably in response to the pandemic.

Mental Health Services: Gambling

Asked by The Lord Bishop of St Albans

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were subject to a Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) as part of a (1) community, or (2) suspended,

sentence order due to a serious gambling addiction for each year since their introduction in 2005. [HL1454]

Lord Bellamy: Offenders with a gambling addiction may be suitable for a Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) as part of a community or suspended sentence order where mental health has been identified as an underlying factor.

Data on the factors underlying the use of MHTRs is collected on the primary presenting need such as anxiety or depression. As problem gambling is not identified as a primary presenting need the data requested is not currently available

Mental Illness: Young People

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that youth arts are sufficiently funded to help young people with mental health problems. [HL1435]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Her Majesty's Government recognises the benefits that non-medical interventions can have on physical and mental health.

Arts Council England works with Bridge Organisations and Music Education Hubs which play a key role in working with local authorities and schools to support the good health of children and young people. They are also working in partnership with the Youth Endowment Fund on research into the links between creativity and improved mental health.

The Arts Council also funds a number of organisations across the country which provide arts programmes that aim to help and support young people with mental health problems. These include the Knotted Project in Cumbria, the Thriving Communities project delivered by Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, and the North Tyneside Cultural Education Partnership which is piloting cultural social prescribing delivered through schools for 5-19 year olds.

In addition, DCMS will be providing £560 million of taxpayer's money to deliver the National Youth Guarantee which includes the delivery of up to 300 new and refurbished youth spaces and services in areas of the country which may not have benefitted as much as they should have done in the past.

Ministers: Aviation

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the effects of jet-lag on ministerial decision-making at all levels. [HL1446]

Lord True: Ministers, on occasion, are required to travel abroad for government business to enable the delivery of the government's objectives. In cases where a Minister is required to travel long distances across time

zones, flexibility in internal departmental travel guidance exists to enable ministers to travel more comfortably.

This exists to mitigate the side effects of jetlag and tiredness and ensure that efficiency, judgement and concentration are not negatively impacted. Departments publish details of overseas flights on a quarterly basis on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ministers-transparency-publications>.

Newport Wafer Fab: Nexperia

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the decision of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy regarding the merger of Nexperia and Newport Wafer Fab will be taken prior to the publication of their Semiconductor Strategy. [HL1473]

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the decision regarding the merger of Nexperia and Newport Wafer Fab will be based on (1) the risk of Chinese ownership of the UK semiconductor industry, or (2) the risk of damage to the UK semiconductor industry. [HL1474]

Lord Callanan: On 25 May, the Secretary of State called in the acquisition by Nexperia of Newport Wafer Fab for a full national security assessment under the National Security and Investment Act. That process is underway and will proceed in line with statutory timescales. It would not be appropriate to comment further on the Government's assessment at this stage.

Separately to this case, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is undertaking a review of the semiconductor sector, working closely with industry experts and representative bodies. The outcome of that review will be concluded later in the year.

NHS Trusts: Food Banks

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS trusts have set up food banks in England. [HL1500]

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reasons why NHS trusts have set up food banks. [HL1501]

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with NHS trusts that have set up food banks; and whether those trusts have set them up to provide food and support for (1) staff, or (2) others. [HL1502]

Lord Kamall: Information on food banks established by National Health Service trusts is not held centrally. No specific assessment has been made and there have been no such discussions. Any arrangements would be implemented by individual trusts and would vary across organisations.

NHS: Hospitals

Asked by *Lord Stevens of Birmingham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the (1) planned construction start date, (2) expected construction completion date, and (3) budgeted cost, for each of the 40 new NHS hospitals they propose to build in England by 2030. [HL684]

Lord Kamall: The Government has committed to build 40 new hospitals by 2030, in addition to eight previously announced schemes.

The schemes are grouped into five cohorts for delivery by 2030, based on an assessment of readiness to progress and the extent to which schemes can realise the benefits of the national programme. This assessment is subject to continuous review and the timescales for individual schemes may change. A current list of schemes and cohorts is attached, due to the size of the data. This includes where schemes are in construction and indicative construction start timescales. There are eight schemes in cohort five, which refers to schemes yet to be confirmed and are currently subject to an ongoing selection process.

At the Spending Review in 2020, the Government confirmed an initial £3.7 billion for the first four years of the programme. Funding from 2024/25 will be set out in further detail at future spending reviews. Specific timetables and funding allocations for individual schemes will be determined through the business case assurance process. In May 2022, the programme secured approval to progress the schemes in cohort two and the approach to delivering the programme was confirmed.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

table [REDRAFT FORMATTED TABLE FOR MINISTERIAL CLEARANCE PQHL684 New Hospital Programme Cohorts v2 (1).docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-06-06/HL684>

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Asked by *Lord Lilley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many nurses joined the Nursing and Midwife Council Register from countries graded by the World Health Organisation as having fewer nurses than the global median in the most recent year for which figures are available [HL1158]

Lord Kamall: The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the independent regulator of nurses, midwives, and nursing associates in the United Kingdom. The

following table shows the number of nurses, midwives, and nursing associates joining the NMC's register from each country with fewer nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people than the global median in the year ending 31 March 2022.

Bahrain	4
Bangladesh	1
Barbados	18
Belize	17
Cameroon	17
China	6
Colombia	3
Egypt	13
Eswatini	9
Ethiopia	1
Gambia	12
India	9,769
Iran	19
Iraq	1
Jamaica	115
Jordan	12
Kenya	461
Lebanon	20
Lesotho	18
Malawi	7
Malaysia	20
Namibia	11
Nepal	210
Niger	1
Nigeria	3,010
Pakistan	112
Saint Lucia	13
Sri Lanka	14
Tanzania	1
Tunisia	1
Turkey	2
Uganda	30
Zambia	57
Zimbabwe	913
Notes:	

1. The World Health Organization publishes a measure of the number of nurses per 10,000 population. The median for their measure, unweighted by countries population is 35.07 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 population.

2. Countries below the median level of nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 population where there were no joiners to the NMC register are excluded.

Palantir

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide an update on the procurement of Palantir as the preferred supplier of NHS England's Federated Data Platform. [HL1601]

Lord Kamall: The Federated Data Platform will be procured by NHS England via an open competition, in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The competition is open to all suppliers and will abide by all the core principles of the Regulations, including transparency, non-discrimination, equal treatment and proportionality. It is anticipated that the procurement will launch in September 2022. A preferred supplier will not be selected until the competition has completed.

Public Houses

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the pub industry in England. [HL1462]

Lord Callanan: The Government published its first-ever Hospitality Strategy in July 2021. The Strategy set out twenty-two commitments to support the sector across a range of policy areas, grouped into three themes: Reopening, Recovery, and Resilience. This Department launched the Hospitality Sector Council to oversee the delivery of the strategy, and officials continue to work with the Council and the sector to deliver the strategy commitments. The Government engages regularly with hospitality businesses and organisations to understand the pressing issues that they face, including cost pressures and supply chain disruptions. An update on the Hospitality Strategy will be published shortly.

Public Interest

Asked by *Lord Lee of Trafford*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the non-disclosure of the details of a meeting between Lord Brownlow of Shurlock Row and Oliver Dowden on the grounds that releasing the information would not be in the public interest, what are the criteria for deciding whether or not something meets the public interest test; who is responsible for that decision; and who took the decision not to release the information in this particular case. [HL1498]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Freedom of Information team assess requests and undertake the relevant public interest test on a case-by-case basis, aligned to the guidance set out by the Information Commissioner's Office. This request was withheld under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and therefore requires a "qualified person" to provide their "reasonable opinion" on its publication. In this instance,

the qualified person was the Secretary of State. Whilst the Secretary of State as the qualified person must give the required opinion, in line with the ICO guidance, DCMS civil servants carried out the preparatory work leading up to this decision.

Reconstruction: Ukraine

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the capabilities of the UK (1) construction industry, and (2) related consultancy businesses, to operate in the rebuilding of Ukraine. [HL1444]

Lord Callanan: The UK has led support for Ukraine during the war and we will continue to lead in supporting the Ukrainian government's Reconstruction and Development Plan. The UK Government is exploring how we engage British construction and consultancy businesses to participate in the reconstruction effort, and we continue to work closely with the sector to identify where it has the capability and capacity to do so

Respiratory System: Health Services

Asked by *Baroness Harris of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce an annual respiratory services delivery report. [HL1691]

Asked by *Baroness Harris of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the levels of (1) training, and (2) accreditation, for staff administering simple breathing tests, such as (a) spirometry, and (b) FeNO. [HL1692]

Lord Kamall: There are no plans to introduce an annual respiratory services delivery report.

The Association of Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) sets and assesses competence against the standards for quality assured spirometry. The ARTP oversee a national register of those who achieved certification in the performance and/or interpretation of spirometry. Additional funding has been made available to systems in 2021/22 and 2022/23 for the training and accreditation of staff in the provision and interpretation of quality assured spirometry. This process is being supported by respiratory clinical networks.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence approved Fractional Exhaled Nitric Oxide devices to diagnose asthma. These devices were selected by the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) for tailored support in 2021/22 as part of the Rapid Uptake Product (RUP) programme to increase adoption in the National Health Service.

During 2021/22, the RUP programme produced resources with AAC partners to support successful implementation and improve patient access to these products. This included educational packages for health

professional responsible for care to improve knowledge and skills.

Senior Civil Servants: Overseas Workers

Asked by Lord Forsyth of Drumlean

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord True on 6 and 22 June (HL302 and HL811), whether the Cabinet Office will write to each Government Department asking them to indicate how many UK-based (1) Permanent Secretaries, and (2) Senior Civil Servants have been working from abroad at any time in the last 24 months. [HL1431]

Lord True: As I stated in my response to HL302 on 6 June and HL811 on 23 June, the Cabinet Office does not hold departmental information about civil servants in UK-based senior leadership roles working from abroad.

Working abroad has always been by exception in the Cabinet Office and is not permitted unless there is a specific business need or under the most exceptional of circumstances (an example of which might be where an employee's partner is a civil servant and is permanently posted abroad).

This is still the current position of the Cabinet Office. In future, we will ensure that communications are sent to departments, as part of wider communications on senior resourcing, to highlight that departmental records should be kept up to date.

Sign Language

Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 21 June (HL Deb col 51GC), when they will issue guidance on the promotion and facilitation of British Sign Language (BSL) and establish a BSL advisory board. [HL1426]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: We anticipate that the BSL Board will be established by late Autumn 2022. Guidance on the promotion and facilitation of British Sign Language will follow.

Social Security Benefits: Canada

Asked by Lord Randall of Uxbridge

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Stedman-Scott on 29 June (HL1002), whether they have had any engagement with the government of Canada on a reciprocal social security agreement; and if so, what discussions they have had with that government on the subject. [HL1447]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The UK Government responded to a request for a reciprocal social security agreement from the Canadian Government in March 2021.

The Government has also recently received a letter from the Government of Canada on negotiating a reciprocal social security agreement. The Department for Work and Pensions plans to respond to this request in due course.

State Retirement Pensions

Asked by Lord Sikka

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish a table showing the (1) lowest, and (2) median, (a) pre-2016, and (b) post-2016, state pension for (i) men, and (ii) women. [HL1455]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: The median weekly amount of State Pension paid, by gender, at the end of November 2021 is shown in the below table. These show payments under the two systems: - (i) the basic State Pension (bSP) plus other components such additional State Pension (SERPS and State Second Pension) and Graduated Retirement Benefit, which operated for people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016; and (ii) the new State Pension (nSP) system for people reaching State Pension age from that date onwards. The lowest State Pension amounts in payments are less than £1 per week for all groups.

Please note that this does not include any payments of Pension Credit which people may be receiving in addition to their contributory State Pension.

Median weekly amount of State Pension (£) by gender, Quarter ending November 2021

Type of State Pension	Women	Men	Total
Pre 2016 State Pension	150.88	172.79	161.06
New State Pension	175.90	179.41	177.94

Source:

DWP, Data and Analytics, Digital Group - Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, and other administrative data.

Notes:

i) Coverage: All cases in payment in Great Britain, plus claimants residing abroad. This excludes cases administered in Northern Ireland.

ii) This data table provides temporary estimates for November 2021. The data will be withdrawn and replaced with new data on 'Stat-Xplore' once the Get Your State Pension (GYSP) system data have been reliably developed and tested.

Turkey: Yazidis

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had, or are planning to have, with the

government of Turkey to locate and return kidnapped Yazidi women and children. [HL1414]

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take (1) to prevent the sale of Yazidi women and girls in Turkey and territory controlled by Turkey, and (2) to ensure that the perpetrators of any such sales are brought to justice. [HL1416]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: UK Ministers and officials encourage the Turkish authorities to safeguard the welfare of all minority groups in Turkey and respect their human rights, in line with the Turkish constitution. We also regularly emphasise to the Turkish government the need to respect human rights and avoid civilian casualties in its operations in Iraq. We will continue to monitor these issues closely.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether Turkey is carrying out airstrikes against Yazidi civilians and civilian targets. [HL1415]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is saddened by the death of a Yazidi child on 15 June during Turkish airstrikes in the Sinjar district of northern Iraq. The UK is closely following the situation in northern Iraq, including monitoring effects of recent Turkish operations on civilians and minority groups. We reiterate to all parties the need for dialogue and cooperation between Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and Turkey to combat terrorism, ensure regional security, and protect civilians.

Typhoon Aircraft

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Eurofighter/Typhoon fighter jets were originally planned for in the defence programme; and on what basis that number was calculated. [HL1472]

Baroness Goldie: At the time initial approvals were given in the mid-1990s, the number of Eurofighter Typhoon originally planned for in the defence programme was 232. However, this had reduced to 160 firm orders by the time that the final Tranche 3 contract was signed in 2009 under a previous Government.

The basis used to calculate that planned number in the 1990s would now be a matter of public record and any remaining records would be held in the National Archives.

UK Endorsement Board: Public Appointments

Asked by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 6 July (HL1265), how the post of Technical Director of the UK Endorsement Board can have been recruited by the process set out in the attachment in the light of the metadata showing that this document was created on 29 April 2021, whilst Financial Reporting Council minutes indicate that the post had been taken by Seema Jamil O'Neill at some time before 18 June 2020. [HL1552]

Lord Callanan: The Technical Director was appointed on 1 December 2021 as a permanent role, following an open and transparent recruitment process for internal and external candidates as set-out in the attachment to my response to Question HL1265. Between 1 June 2020 and up until 1 December 2021 the role was filled on an interim basis, whilst the UKEB was being set up. The interim appointment was made through an internal secondment competition within FRC which included an application and interview process with representatives of FRC HR, BEIS and a Technical Expert from the Bank of England.

War Crimes: Criminal Investigation

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing for investigations of any alleged war crimes currently taking place; and whether they will increase the resources available to support those investigations. [HL1443]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: International criminal justice and accountability is a fundamental element of our foreign policy. The UK supports the International Criminal Court (ICC) in its role as the primary international institution with the mandate to investigate and prosecute war crimes and other international crimes of the most serious concern.

On 14 July 2022, I represented the UK at the Ukraine Accountability conference in The Hague. I met with ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan and stressed the UK's continued commitment to ensuring that our assistance in the investigation of atrocity crimes and support to victims, is effective. The UK has also joined with the United States and the European Union to launch the Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA), which is supporting the Office of the Prosecutor General to investigate and prosecute conflict-related crimes. The UK will commit £2.5 million to delivering justice for war crimes in Ukraine, through the ACA's vital work.

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