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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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<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Lord True	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
Baroness Barran	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
Lord Bellamy	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
Lord Benyon	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist	Spokesperson, Wales Office, 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
Lord Davies of Gower	Whip
Baroness Goldie	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Harlech	Whip
Lord Johnson of Lainston	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
Lord Markham	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Murray of Blidworth	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
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
Baroness Penn	Parliamentary Secretary, HM Treasury
Baroness Scott of Bybrook	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lord Sharpe of Epsom	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
Baroness Stedman-Scott	Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Work and Pensions
Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Chief Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Whip

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Written Statements

Friday, 9 December 2022

Advertising Restrictions on Less Healthy Food: Delay in Implementation

[HLWS422]

Lord Markham: My Hon friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Primary Care and Public Health) (Neil O'Brien) has made the following Written Statement:

The Government is delaying the implementation of the introduction of further advertising restrictions on TV and online for less healthy food and drink products until 1 October 2025.

Due to a delay to Royal Assent of the Health and Care Act 2022, and recognition that industry needs more time to prepare for the restrictions, in May 2022, Government announced a year delay to the implementation of these restrictions to 1 January 2024.

However feedback from industry and the regulators is now clear that there is insufficient time to prepare for implementation on the previously announced date of 1 January 2024.

This is because ahead of implementation there are a number of steps that need to be taken including: a Government consultation on draft regulations that are required to set out the details of the advertising restrictions, such as the definition of product categories in scope of the advertising restrictions and the definition of the exemptions for small and medium enterprises, audio only content and services connected to regulated radio; the subsequent making of such Regulations; a consultation from the statutory regulator (Ofcom) on the designation of a frontline regulator; the possible designation of a frontline regulator by Ofcom; and publication of guidance to support business compliance with advertising restrictions, following consultation on such guidance from the frontline regulator.

Through discussions with key stakeholders it is clear that this process cannot be delivered by January 2024.

We have listened carefully to the concerns raised by advertisers, broadcasters and regulators about the importance of having sufficient time with these documents to fully prepare and restructure their advertising. We also recognise that businesses need time to reformulate their products. This is why we have decided to delay implementation of this policy until 1 October 2025.

Parliament included a power in the Health and Care Act to delay implementation of the advertising restrictions if necessary. We will be utilising this power to amend the date of implementation for the advertising restrictions by secondary legislation, which we are laying today.

To illustrate our commitment to this policy, we are also launching a consultation on the definitions included in

secondary legislation, to provide detail to that included in the Health and Care Act. This consultation will run for 16 weeks, until 31 March 2023.

This consultation will not be inviting opinions on the policy or looking to deviate from anything announced in the consultation response in June 2021 – it will be to confirm the clarity of the definitions used and that the text in the secondary legislation is fit for purpose.

Addressing obesity remains a priority for the government. Having a fit and healthy population is essential for a thriving economy and we remain committed to helping people live healthier lives.

New Regulations on out of home calorie labelling for food sold in large businesses including restaurants, cafes and takeaways came into force in April 2022 and restrictions on the promotion by location of products high in fat, salt or sugar came into force in October 2022.

App Security and Privacy Code of Practice: Response to Call for Views

[HLWS418]

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

I am pleased to inform the House that the Government has published two documents titled 'Code of Practice for App Store Operators and App Developers' and 'Call for Views Response on App Security and Privacy Interventions'. This follows on from a [Call for Views](#) held between 4 May and 29 June 2022 where we sought feedback on our proposed interventions to protect users' security and privacy from malicious and poorly developed apps.

We are publishing a world-first voluntary Code of Practice that sets minimum security and privacy requirements for App Store Operators and App Developers. Given that people's lives are dependent on apps to use services, such as online banking, health and entertainment services, this Code is essential as malicious and poorly designed apps continue to be accessible to users on app stores which can result in the loss of personal data, money and access to devices. This work will help deliver an objective within the National Cyber Strategy to reduce the cyber risk at source by ensuring that app stores (and app developers) follow better levels of cyber security.

This Code will improve the security and privacy practices of both developers and operators and therefore ensure that apps are more suitably built. The Code, and the eight principles within it, has been informed by feedback from operators, developers and security experts following the Call for Views, and received support from a vast majority of respondents. It has been thoroughly tested to ensure it strikes an appropriate balance in protecting users whilst also not overly burdening operators and developers. Furthermore, the Code will

ensure that more information about an app's data practices is conveyed to users so they can make informed decisions when deciding whether to download an app.

Given the global nature of cyber security issues and digital markets, we plan to prioritise creating international alignment on the Code's security and privacy requirements. We will do this by engaging with international counterparts to promote the need for the requirements, particularly in the context of future competition regulation, and explore the viability of creating an international standard based on the Code.

I will place a copy of both the '[Code of Practice for App Store Operators and App Developers](#)' and '[Call for Views Response on App Security and Privacy Interventions](#)' in the Libraries of both Houses.

Combat Air: Tempest Aircraft

[HLWS419]

Baroness Goldie: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

In the summer I updated the House on progress under the UK Combat Air Strategy, setting out the crucial importance of combat air to the nation's security, sovereign industrial base and to our role in international affairs. I outlined the significant progress being made to develop a next generation combat air system, highlighting the substantial work underway with close and valued partners Japan and Italy.

It is with great pleasure that I now offer a further update on international partnering for our future combat air capability. In a landmark announcement, the Prime Ministers of the UK, Japan and Italy, announced that we will work together under a joint programme partnership, the next step in deepening our collaboration. Within the UK, the aircraft under development will be known as Tempest.

Together, our ambition is to develop a next generation capability designed to outmatch adversaries even in the most highly contested environments, by utilising a network of cutting-edge capabilities such as advanced sensors, weapons and data systems. Due to enter service in 2035, it is being developed to keep ahead of the threat for decades to come and undertake a wide variety of missions within our wider military, across all domains.

Tempest will be developed by the newly formed Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), under a spirit of equal partnership, created by the merging of Japan's FX programme with the UK and Italy's Future Combat Air System (FCAS). This new programme will take forward our joint conceiving activity and support technological and operational sovereignty across partner nations.

This announcement represents a major opportunity to develop our sovereign defence-industrial capabilities, demonstrating our commitment to the 2018 Combat Air Strategy and the 2021 Defence and Security Industrial

Strategy. The programme is delivering an uplift in skilled jobs for all three partner nations, providing a launchpad for careers in science and engineering. The enterprise already employs over 2,500 highly skilled personnel in the UK alone, including engineers and programmers, with recruitment expanding rapidly.

This programme will also be important in supporting economic growth across the country, with key combat air hubs in the north-west and south-west of England and in Edinburgh, supported by a supply chain of hundreds of organisations from one end of the UK to the other. It is a key avenue for investment in Research and Development, both public and private, with MOD and our industry partners having already invested well over £1bn in developing the skills and technologies needed to deliver at pace.

This capability will be designed by some of the world's leading defence companies. In the UK, these include BAE Systems, Leonardo UK, MBDA UK and Rolls-Royce, working closely with the Ministry of Defence. The international partnership includes MHI, IHI and MELCO for Japan; and Leonardo SpA., Avio Aero, MBDA IT and Elettronica for Italy.

This is a truly strategic endeavour, demonstrating our commitment to maintaining the capabilities needed to defend the UK, protect and reassure our allies and partners and deter those who would threaten international security. It is a clear sign of a global Britain working with like-minded partners from across the world to deepen our defence capabilities, grow our advanced industrial capacity, and demonstrate our shared commitment to international security.

Government Chemist Review 2021

[HLWS416]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Minister of State (George Freeman) has today made the following statement:

The twenty-fifth Annual Review of the Government Chemist has been received. The Review will be placed in the Libraries of the House plus those of the Devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland. The Review will also be laid before the Scottish Parliament.

The Government Chemist is the Referee Analyst named in Acts of Parliament. The Government Chemist's team carry out analysis in high-profile or legally disputed cases. A range of referee analysis work was carried out during 2021, which included the evaluation of genetically modified organisms in rice products, pesticide detection in an organic peanut product, aflatoxin in dried figs, and structural data around a liposomal vitamin C product. The Government Chemist continues to work closely with government departments, their governance group, Devolved Administrations, Non-Governmental Organisations, and industry to identify tools, standards, and guidance to facilitate effective testing for food fraud and to grow knowledge transfer activities.

Human Rights and Democracy Report 2021

[HLWS415]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, has made the following statement:

I have today laid before Parliament a copy of the 2021 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Report on Human Rights and Democracy (CP number 768).

The report analyses human rights developments overseas in 2021 and illustrates how the government worked to promote and defend human rights globally, including our work to stop sexual violence against women and girls in conflict around the world and to eradicate modern slavery, to defend those who are abused, targeted or killed for their religion or beliefs, to promote media freedom and to support human rights defenders.

Against a backdrop of violations of human rights and increasing authoritarianism in the world, the UK remains steadfastly dedicated to protecting and promoting human rights.

Sanctions Designations

[HLWS421]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: My Right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State (Indo-Pacific) (Anne-Marie Trevelyan), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 9 December, to mark International Anti-Corruption Day and Human Rights Day on 10 December, the UK announced a package of 30 sanctions under our Global Human Rights, Global Anti-Corruption and geographic sanctions regimes. Travel bans and/or asset freezes have been imposed on designated individuals and entities.

Covering targets from eleven countries, the package demonstrates the UK's continued determination to take action to tackle corruption and to hold to account perpetrators of human rights abuses and violations.

Under the Global Anti-Corruption Regulations 2021, sanctions can be imposed for involvement in serious corruption, which covers bribery and misappropriation of property. The sanctions announced today include designations of individuals and entities involved in serious corruption in the Western Balkans and Moldova.

Under the Global Human Rights Regulations 2020, sanctions can be imposed for involvement in serious violations and abuses of certain human rights: the right to life, the right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the right to be free from slavery, not to be held in servitude or required to perform forced or compulsory labour. The sanctions announced today include designations addressing serious violations and abuses of human rights in Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia and Uganda.

The UK's geographic sanctions regimes are also a powerful tool for targeting perpetrators of, and those involved in, human rights abuses and violations that involve specific countries. Designations announced today under our Mali, Myanmar, South Sudan and Iran regimes aim to send a strong signal about respect for human rights and the UK's preparedness to take action. Designations under our Russia sanctions regime target those who have destabilised or threatened the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

The UK is also using all the levers at our disposal to prevent Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and to ensure that perpetrators are held to account. This is why today some of these designations specifically address the abhorrent crimes of sexual violence.

The full list of designations is as follows:

Western Balkans

1. Slobodan Tescic: Serbia/Bosnia, dealer of arms and munitions in the Balkans
2. Milan Radojcic: Kosovo, Vice President of Serb List (SL)
3. Zvonko Veselinovic: Kosovo, businessman and leader of an organised crime group

Moldova

4. Vladimir Plahotniuc: businessman and former Chairman of the Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM)
5. Ilan Shor: businessman and Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Sor Party

Nicaragua

6. Yohaira Hernandez Chirino: Deputy Mayor of Matagalpa
7. Sadrach Zelodon Rocha: Mayor of Matagalpa

Pakistan

8. Mian Abdul Haq: cleric of Barchundi Sharif shrine

Russia

9. Colonel Ramil Rakhmatulovic Ibatullin: Commander of the 90th Guards Tank Division
10. Valentin Aleksandrovich Oparin: Major of Justice and an investigator of the 534th Military Investigation Department of the Armed Forces of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation

11. Artur Rinatovich Shambazov: former senior detective in the main department for the protection of national statehood of the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

12. Andrey Vyacheslavovich Tishenin: former senior detective in Ukrainian Security Service and former officer in Russian federal Security Service in Crimea

13. Oleg Vladimirovich Tkachenko: former Head of the Department for Public Prosecutors for the Rostov region

Uganda

14. Kale Kayihura: former Inspector General of the Ugandan Police Force

Mali

15. Katiba Macina: jihadist armed group in Mali led by Amadou Kouffia and founding member of the AQ-aligned JNIM terror group

Myanmar

16. 33rd Light Infantry Division of Myanmar Army: part of the Myanmar Armed Forces under the command of Brigadier-General Aung Aung

17. 99 Light Infantry of Myanmar Army: part of the Myanmar Armed Forces under the leadership of Brigadier-General Than Oo

18. Office of the Chief of Military and Security Affairs (OCMSA)

South Sudan

19. Gordon Koang Biel: County Commissioner for Koch, Unity State

20. Gatluak Nyang Hoth: County Commissioner for Mayendit, Unity State

Iran

21. Iman Afshari: Presiding Judge of Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court

22. Ali Alghasimehr: Public Prosecutor of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz and Chief Justice of Fars province

23. Mohamed-Reza Amouzad: Presiding Judge of Branch 28 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court

24. Allah Karam Azizi: Head of Rajaei Shahr Prison

25. Hassan Babaei: member of the Iranian Judiciary in Tehran province

26. Ali Cheharmahali: former Director of Greater Tehran Penitentiary and former Director of Evin prison

27. Mousa Gazanfarabad: former Head of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran

28. Seyed Ali Mazloum: Presiding Judge of Branch 29 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court

29. Mustafa Mohebi: former Director of the Prisons Organisation in Tehran

30. Gholamreza Ziyayi: former Director of Evin Prison and Director of Raja'i Shahr prison.

UK Measurement Strategy

[HLWS417]

Lord Callanan: My Honourable friend the Minister of State (George Freeman) has today made the following statement:

A Measurement Strategy for the National Measurement system is being published today. The National Measurement System (NMS) is an essential part of the UK's research and innovation infrastructure that is critical for science, innovation and trade.

This strategy describes how the UK will capitalise on its world-leading National Measurement System in the 2020s.

The National Measurement System will focus on three challenges where enhanced measurement capability and expertise will support the UK:

1) *The health and wellbeing of a growing population*

The National Measurement System will support the UK's position at the forefront of leading-edge healthcare, enabling people to live longer, healthier and safer lives.

2) *Managing and reducing our environmental impact*

The National Measurement System will provide the critical measurement infrastructure needed to help the UK improve energy efficiency, transition to clean energy sources and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

3) *Increasing prosperity and supporting innovation*

The National Measurement System will support new and existing innovative businesses, providing access to the measurement capability and expertise needed to translate new ideas into products.

UK-South Korea Trade Agreement: Update

[HLWS420]

Lord Johnson of Lainston: My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for International Trade (Kemi Badenoch MP) has today made the following statement:

Today the Department for International Trade has launched a public Call for Input on a future Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and South Korea. The Call for Input can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-south-korea-call-for-input>

The UK is committed to building on our strong, existing trade and investment relationship with South Korea. South Korea is our 20th largest trade partner with bilateral trade worth £14.3 billion in 2021.

The UK's current trade relationship with South Korea is based on the EU-South Korea trade agreement, which was negotiated by the European Commission in 2011 and, after a further negotiation, formed the basis of the UK-Korea trade agreement on 01/01/2021. We now have the opportunity to update the agreement, ensuring it is a modern and fit-for-purpose arrangement that meets the specific needs of the UK. This will include important areas such as digital trade, enhanced climate provisions and further support for small and medium sized businesses.

South Korea was the world's 10th largest economy in terms of GDP in 2021, with a population of almost 52 million people. An updated agreement could provide the UK with the opportunity to increase the value of UK exports to South Korea, which were worth £8.1 billion in 2021. With updated modern provisions the UK can seek to expand our key exports in digital, business and financial services, contributing to domestic growth at a time of global economic hardship.

Opening discussions towards a modern deal will assist both nations to take an ambitious, progressive, and sustainable step towards shared growth and job creation. As two countries with a strong record of cooperation, resting on shared democratic values, a bespoke trade agreement will provide a foundation for further growth in our trading relationship.

The Government has been clear that when we are negotiating trade deals, the NHS will not be on the table. The price the NHS pays for drugs will not be on the table. The services the NHS provides will not be on the table. We will not agree measures which undermine the Government's ability to deliver on our manifesto commitments to the NHS.

As we committed to in our manifesto in all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.

The Call for Input will run for eight weeks and invite businesses, public sector bodies, individuals, and other

interested stakeholders to set out their priorities for a closer trading relationship with South Korea.

The information that the Government receives through this exercise will be crucial in shaping our approach to negotiations and our priorities and objectives, ensuring that our final approach is informed by stakeholder needs and the demands of the British economy.

Next Steps

The UK and South Korean Governments share a desire to develop closer ties and we have jointly agreed to aim to launch negotiations as soon as possible next year, after we have fully reflected on the results of the call for input and developed a negotiating mandate. Prior to launching negotiations, the UK Government will publish its approach to negotiations. This will include a response to the call for input and our strategic objectives, as well as an economic scoping assessment. We will continue to keep Parliament, the devolved administrations, UK citizens and businesses updated, as we make progress towards seizing the opportunities presented by a new, modern trade agreement with South Korea.

Written Answers

Friday, 9 December 2022

Abortion: Neural Tube Defects

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any trends in the last five years regarding the number of pregnancies terminated due to neural tube defects. [HL3615]

Lord Markham: This information is not collected in the format requested. Information on neural tube defects is collected by the number of mentions, rather than number of pregnancies terminated. It is possible for a pregnancy to have multiple neural tube defects. From 2017 to 2021, there were 4,697 mentions of congenital malformations of the nervous system in Ground E abortions for residents of England and Wales. This has remained stable over the last five years, other than a small decline in 2019. Data for 2022 is due to be published in June 2023.

Care Workers: Labour Turnover and Recruitment

Asked by **Lord Pendry**

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps are they taking (1) to increase the carer workforce, and (2) to reduce staff turnover rates in the sector. [HL3506]

Lord Markham: We are promoting adult social care careers through a national recruitment campaign, which launched on 2 November. We are also providing resources and practical toolkits for care providers to attract, train and retain care staff, including the Workforce Development Fund.

We are making available up to £2.8 billion of additional funding for social care in 23-24 and £4.7 billion in 24-25 to support adult social care and discharge - the biggest funding increase in history.

Climate Change: Finance

Asked by **Lord Selkirk of Douglas**

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support the creation of an international funding facility to combat climate change and respond to the loss and damage commitments made at COP27. [HL3919]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: All parties at COP27, including the UK, agreed to establish both new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and a fund for responding to loss and damage. Parties also agreed to establish a Transitional Committee on operationalisation of the funding arrangements and the fund.

The UK announced at COP27 £5 million of funding for the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage which will bring together and enhance the technical assistance available to developing countries suffering from the worst impacts of climate change.

The UK will constructively engage with the Committee, with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and parties and with civil society to help ensure the funding arrangements, fund and the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage deliver effectively for countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Congenital Abnormalities and Folic Acid

Asked by **Lord Rooker**

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of introducing a (1) Birth Defects Prevention Month, and (2) Folic Acid Awareness Week, similar to those in the United States. [HL3854]

Lord Markham: No specific assessment has been made. However, the Government promotes the recommendation to take folic acid supplements to those who could become or are pregnant and other measures to promote good health in the first 1,000 days of life, through the Better Health Start for Life programme and via online National Health Service information.

Dengue Fever

Asked by **Baroness Northover**

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Markham on 13 October (HL2369), how many dengue fever infections there were in the UK in (1) 2020, and (2) 2021, based on data held by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in (a) England, (b) Wales, and (c) Northern Ireland, comprised of laboratory reports from the UKHSA's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory at Porton Down. [HL3017]

Lord Markham: The following table shows the number of imported cases of dengue cases reported by the UK Health Security Agency's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory at Porton Down in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2020 and 2021.

	2020	2021
England	101	93
Wales	1	1
Northern Ireland	0	1

Dental Health

Asked by **Lord Kamall**

To ask His Majesty's Government which dental charities are working in England to promote better

dental hygiene in schools and local communities, including those that donate free toothbrushes and toothpaste. [HL3937]

Lord Markham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Ethiopia: Development Aid

Asked by Lord Selkirk of Douglas

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide (1) medical supplies, and (2) aid, to Ethiopia. [HL3918]

Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: In the last eighteen months the UK has provided nearly £90 million of life-saving aid to communities across Ethiopia affected by crises. This support has provided emergency health supplies for 1 million people. Through the recently announced package of £14 million humanitarian support, funding is expected to reach up to 150,000 people with comprehensive health, water sanitation, hygiene and nutrition services across Ethiopia.

Evusheld

Asked by Lord Mendelsohn

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that immunocompromised patients will have to wait no more than nine months from approval to get the prophylactic antibodies Evusheld. [HL3369]

Lord Markham: The Government has decided not to procure Evusheld for prevention through emergency routes at this time. This is based on independent clinical advice by the multi-agency RAPID C-19 and a United Kingdom national expert policy working group, which reflects the epidemiological context and pandemic response and recovery policies. However, we have referred Evusheld to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for evaluation, which is due in April 2023. Following NICE's review, if a positive recommendation is made, National Health Service commissioners will be obliged to provide treatments within 90 days of publication.

Folic Acid

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any evidence of food manufacturers proposing to lower the level of voluntary folic acid fortification of foods. [HL3819]

Lord Markham: Fortification of food with folic acid is voluntary and there is no requirement to notify the Government when it is added or removed from a product. As such, the Government is not aware of any such industry considerations. The rules on fortification under existing legislation requires that where vitamins and

minerals are added to food, it must be at a minimum level of 15% of the Nutrient Reference value in Retained Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 or 200 micrograms per 100 grams for folic acid.

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government what engagement they have had with governments of other countries which fortify foods with folic acid in order to reduce the prevalence of neural tube defects. [HL3853]

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have engaged with the EU on the introduction by the UK of policy changes relating to food fortification with folic acid; and if so, what responses they have received. [HL3855]

Lord Markham: The Department has engaged with New Zealand and Australia during the development of folic acid fortification policy. The proposed changes to the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998, including the introduction of mandatory fortification of non-wholemeal wheat flour with folic acid, will require notification to the World Trade Organization in respect of Technical Barriers to Trade in advance of any new requirements. When the notification is made, there will be an opportunity for WTO members, including the European Union, to comment on the proposals.

General Practitioners

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure face-to-face GP appointments are more readily available to patients. [HL3850]

Lord Markham: On 22 September 2022, we announced measures to assist people to make an informed choice on their general practitioner (GP) practice, book an appointment more easily, benefit from more care options and increase the diversity of general practice teams. This aims to increase the availability of appointment types, such as face-to-face, in England.

NHS England's guidance states that GP practices must provide face-to-face appointments and remote consultations and should respect preferences for face-to-face care unless there are good clinical reasons to the contrary. While remote consultations can provide additional choice, flexibility and convenience for patients, this is not suitable for all patients or in all circumstances. In October 2022, 71.3% of appointments were conducted face-to-face, excluding COVID-19 vaccinations, up from 64.3% in October 2021.

Hearing Impairment: Young People

Asked by Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown

To ask His Majesty's Government what data they have gathered, if any, which support the view that

young people's hearing is placed at risk as a result of unsafe listening habits using headphones. [HL3848]

Lord Markham: No specific assessment has been made. However, the World Health Organization estimates that more than one billion young people globally are at risk of hearing loss due to recreational exposure to loud sound, including through headphones.

Influenza: Drugs

Asked by Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have commissioned research to understand where rapid diagnostics should be used in care pathways to ensure influenza Neuraminidase Inhibitor (NI) drugs and COVID-19 therapies are prescribed as soon as possible after infection, in order to reduce winter admissions. [HL3911]

Lord Markham: The Department commissions research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). While there are no specific studies currently active, the NIHR has supported evaluation of COVID-19 diagnostics and research on rapid diagnostics for a range of infectious diseases. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including rapid diagnostics.

Large Goods Vehicle Drivers: Tachographs

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 1 December (HL3746), how many manufacturers expect to have smart 2 tachographs (1) in production, and (2) available, for support to relevant vehicle owners; and by what date they expect to have this before 21 August 2023. [HL3993]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: There are three manufacturers with European bases, which supply the UK and EU markets with the existing smart 1 tachographs. Two (Continental and Stoneridge) have shown interest in producing the new smart 2 tachographs, in the context of the implementation date of 21 August 2023.

I am aware of industry concerns that there could be a shortage of supply of smart 2 tachographs which will make the implementation date of 21 August 2023 challenging. My Department will continue to monitor the situation.

Lebanon: Food Aid

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the announcement by the United Nations World Food Programme on 21 October that it has "continued to scale up its assistance in Lebanon", when they last discussed with international partners action to alleviate the food emergency in Lebanon, given that "more than

half of the Lebanese population now in need of assistance to cover their food and other basic needs". [HL3757]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Lebanon is experiencing a severe economic and humanitarian crisis. The UK engages closely with the Government of Lebanon, international partners, NGOs and the UN on alleviating the food emergency in Lebanon. Since 2011, the UK has allocated over £850 million in assistance to Lebanon, including through our ongoing partnership with the UN World Food Programme (WFP). In FY22/23, UK support to WFP will target 123,000 individuals per month for three months with cash to meet essential needs such as food, shelter and healthcare. The UK will continue to help the most vulnerable but is clear that Lebanon's leaders must deliver economic reforms as the only way to alleviate the crisis and set the country on a path to long-term economic stability.

Locums

Asked by Lord Warner

To ask His Majesty's Government how many (1) doctors, (2) registered nurses, and (3) medical scientists, were employed as locums in each year since 2015; and what was the cost for each of those three groups in each of those years. [HL3678]

Lord Markham: While data on agency staff by headcount is collected, this information has not been centrally validated.

The following table shows expenditure on agency staff in the healthcare science, medical and dental and nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff groups in each year from 2017/18 to 2020/21. This data was not collected prior to 2017 and information for 2021/22 has not been centrally validated.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Healthcare science</i>	<i>Medical and dental</i>	<i>Nursing, midwifery and health visiting</i>
2017/18	£40,101,511	£949,883,470	£808,661,687
2018/19	£35,670,387	£937,864,774	£843,282,221
2019/20	£31,906,249	£918,617,743	£878,521,144
2020/21	£34,733,978	£918,879,984	£837,822,620

Note: Information based on provider financial return.

Medical Equipment: Electricity

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they (1) have taken, or (2) plan to take, to ensure that seriously ill children who depend on electrical equipment for their survival can access a secure supply of affordable electricity this winter. [HL3870]

Lord Markham: The Government's cost of living support contains specific measures aimed at the most

vulnerable, including households with critically ill-children requiring electricity dependent medical equipment at home, with £15 billion made available to those with the greatest need.

Specific National Health Service specialised services also grant financial rebates to offset energy costs, including home oxygen concentrators and adult home dialysis. NHS England is working with regional teams and integrated care systems as the commissioners of services to identify funding to address increases in the costs associated with operating medical equipment in the home. Local authorities can also provide support.

Mental Health Services: Children and Young People

Asked by Lord Bradley

To ask His Majesty's Government how much of the £2.3 billion earmarked for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has now been invested in those services; and, of that amount, how much has been allocated to local authority Children's Services to support children in care. [HL3995]

Lord Markham: This information is not held in the format requested. However, local commissioners will determine how this funding will be used to meet the health needs of the local population.

Mental Health Services: Children in Care

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure care-experienced children and young people have access to specialist, trauma-informed mental health support if they need it. [HL4017]

Lord Markham: Funding for mental health services will increase by at least £2.3 billion a year by 2023/24 to allow an additional 345,000 children and young people, including those in care, to access National Health Service-funded specialist mental health support.

Midwives: Apprentices

Asked by Baroness Merron

To ask His Majesty's Government how many midwifery apprentices there are in England. [HL3660]

Lord Markham: At the end of July 2022 there were a total of 87 Midwife apprenticeship starts in England.

Neural Tube Defects: Health Services

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government what is their latest assessment of lifetime direct medical costs associated with births affected by neural tube defects compared to those unaffected; and why they cited German research in the consultation on Amending the Bread and Flour

Regulations 1998, which ran from 1 September to 23 November, rather than UK research. [HL3820]

Lord Markham: No specific assessment has been made. The consultation on amending the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998 and the Bread and Flour Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 cited research from Germany, as a relevant academic study in the United Kingdom was not available.

NHS: Coronavirus

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask His Majesty's Government how many NHS staff to date have died as a result of contracting COVID-19. [HL3817]

Lord Markham: The Office for National Statistics' data shows that from 9 March 2020 to 31 March 2022, there were 796 registered deaths involving COVID-19 among healthcare workers in England aged 20 to 64 years old, using their last known occupation. The definition of healthcare workers includes those employed in the National Health Service and healthcare sector workers.

NHS: Strikes

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that patients will continue to receive essential care and services in the event of any industrial action amongst staff in the National Health Service. [HL3815]

Lord Markham: Employers and trade unions should discuss local derogations, which will identify those services exempt from strike action in order to protect patient safety. The Department is working with NHS England which is accountable for operational planning and assurance in the event of any industrial action.

Exercise 'Arctic Willow', a multi-day exercise for integrated care boards (ICBs) and trusts, is currently taking place. This will test the system to ensure services can respond to multiple, concurrent events. Data from this exercise will be coordinated through ICBs and returned to NHS England. Findings will be complete by mid-December.

Nutrition

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the main nutrient deficiencies within the UK population; and whether they have carried out any analysis of any gender difference in that data. [HL3770]

Lord Markham: The National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) provides information on dietary intakes and nutritional status for males and females by age group. The latest data from the NDNS 2016 to 2019 shows that

dietary intakes of most vitamins are adequate, however there is evidence of low dietary intakes of vitamin D and of some minerals including magnesium, potassium, iodine and selenium. Assessment of nutritional status in the NDNS shows low blood levels for vitamin D and folate across age and sex groups. Low dietary intakes and blood levels of iron are also seen in women and girls.

Oral Questions: House of Lords

Asked by Lord Palmer

To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking to encourage members to keep supplementary questions short and succinct. [HL3812]

Lord True: I agree with the noble Lord that members should aim to keep their contributions concise and, in accordance with the Companion, confined to no more than two points. This enables as many peers from across the House as possible the opportunity to scrutinise the Government.

It is the responsibility of the whole House to work collectively on this issue and I am sure the usual channels will make every effort to ensure their members keep to this standard of practice. In June 2022 the usual channels wrote collectively to all members to remind them of these rules and the courtesies of the House more generally.

I will also remind colleagues of the importance of ministers providing succinct answers to questions, in accordance with the practice of the House, to enable the House to operate in the most effective manner including the recommendation that initial answers should be no more than 75 words.

Palliative Care: Children

Asked by Lord Balfe

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Markham on 22 November (HL3405), what plans they have, if any, to give an indication of (1) a timetable for the commencement of the independent review into the causes of disputes between those with parental responsibility and those responsible for the care or medical treatment of critically ill children, (2) details of the membership of the review, and (3) terms of reference for the review, which is due to report by 1 October 2023. [HL3632]

Lord Markham: We expect the commissioning process to be completed in the coming weeks. While the review will not have a fixed membership, it will engage with a range of interested or affected people and organisations. This will include health professionals and the families of critically ill children, to ensure it develops a balanced evidence base for identifying solutions. The organisation undertaking the review will be asked to publish its terms of reference shortly after it has been commissioned.

Pregnancy

Asked by Lord Rooker

To ask His Majesty's Government whether and how they measure the effectiveness of advice given to women of child-bearing age planning a pregnancy according to their (1) socio-economic background, (2) ethnicity, and (3) regional location. [HL3616]

Lord Markham: There is no specific measure on the effectiveness of advice given to women of child-bearing age planning a pregnancy.

Royal Sussex County Hospital: Air Ambulance Services

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask His Majesty's Government when they anticipate the helipad located on top of the Royal Sussex County Hospital tower block will become operational. [HL3929]

Asked by Lord Bassam of Brighton

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure the safe landing and dispatch of critical patients from the helipad located on Royal Sussex County Hospital tower block. [HL3930]

Lord Markham: The structure of the helideck has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority. It has the capacity to receive all the types of helicopter regularly used by the emergency services and the military in the area to transfer patients. The patient care and transfer model for the helideck has been approved by the University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust's clinical experts and by partner organisations, including the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance service. The helideck is scheduled to open in the autumn of 2023.

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