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Friday
16 December 2022

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Written Statements1

Written Answers.....4

[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>
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, 16 December 2022

Education Funding

[HLWS447]

Baroness Barran: The Department for Education has announced the next 239 schools to be provisionally selected for the School Rebuilding Programme and has also confirmed schools, high needs and early years revenue funding allocations for 2023-24 across England.

The School Rebuilding Programme was launched in June 2020 and will rebuild or significantly refurbish buildings at 500 schools and sixth form colleges over the next decade. Including the 161 projects previously announced, this announcement means that 400 schools have now been selected for the programme. Projects will enter delivery at a rate of approximately 50 per year, and will transform the educational environment for hundreds of thousands of children in the poorest condition schools.

To ensure we are delivering the greatest improvement to the school estate, each school in the programme has been selected from nominations based on the condition and safety of its buildings. Selected schools include primary, secondary and special schools and sixth form colleges.

Construction of new buildings at some of the previously announced schools is already underway, with a number of projects almost completed. These projects are supporting jobs and skills in local communities and driving productivity and innovation in the construction sector. New buildings will be net zero carbon in operation, incorporating modern designs and technologies, contributing to our sustainability commitments.

In addition to the School Rebuilding Programme, we are continuing to invest in the school estate with annual capital funding. We have allocated over £13 billion since 2015 to maintain and improve school facilities across England, including £1.8 billion in financial year 2022-23. We have also allocated an additional £500 million in capital funding to schools and colleges this financial year for energy efficiency upgrades, helping to reduce energy use during the winter months and beyond.

Details of the schools selected for the programme and more information about the methodology used have been published on GOV.UK.

On funding, we are allocating the additional net £2 billion for schools announced at the Autumn Statement.

Overall, core schools funding is increasing by £3.5 billion in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. School funding will be at its highest ever level in real terms per pupil by 2024-25, totalling £58.8 billion.

This includes an increase in mainstream school funding, for the 5-16 age group, of over £2.5 billion in 2023-24, compared to 2022-23. High needs funding is increasing by almost £1 billion in total.

As part of this increase, mainstream schools will receive a new, Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) for primary and secondary provision in the 2023-24 financial year. This equates to a 3.4% increase in per pupil funding for mainstream schools, on top of the allocations through the Dedicated Schools Grant, which we are also publishing.

The detailed methodology for allocating this new grant is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mainstream-schools-additional-grant-2023-to-2024>.

The Dedicated Schools Grant allocations are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dedicated-schools-grant-dsg-2023-to-2024>.

Maintained special and alternative provision schools and academies will also receive supplementary Autumn Statement funding, delivered by placing a new condition of grant on local authorities' use of their high needs allocations.

Pupil premium per pupil rates in 2023-24 will increase by 5%. This will increase pupil premium funding to £2,865 million in 2023-24, an increase of £180 million from 2022-23. This increase will ensure that this targeted funding continues to support the most disadvantaged children in our schools.

Finally, for Early Years, we have published the Government response to the Early Years Funding Formulae consultation launched on 4 July 2022, confirmed the hourly funding rates for the free early education entitlements in 2023-24 for each local authority, and announced their indicative allocations.

Reflecting the recently announced National Living Wage increases, we are investing an additional £20 million into the early years entitlements. This is on top of the £180 million for 2023-24 announced at the Spending Review. Taken together, this will mean at national level, early years providers are supported with the additional National Living Wage costs associated with delivering the free childcare entitlements next year.

We have updated the data underpinning the early years funding formulae, and have confirmed the approach to protections set out in the consultation to ensure the transition to new funding levels implied is manageable. The minimum funding floor for the three- and four-year-old funding rate will therefore increase from £4.61 per hour in 2022-23 to £4.87 per hour in 2023-24. All local authorities will see at least a 1% increase in their funding rates in 2023-24, and up to a maximum of 4.9% for the three and four-year-old rate and up to 10% for the two-year-old rate. We will also increase the Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) and Disability Access Fund (DAF) rates, from 60p to 62p per hour for the EYPP, and from £800 to £828 per child per year for DAF.

For Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS), we are confirming the additional £10 million announced on 4 July 2022, providing for a minimum hourly rate of £3.80 per hour for MNS supplementary funding for all local

authorities in 2023-24, and a £10 cap on the hourly rate, with transitional arrangements for the most affected local authority. We intend to maintain the cap at that level in 2024-25.

Environmental Targets

[HLWS449]

Lord Benyon: This government is committed to leaving the environment in a better state than we found it. Following our consultation earlier in the year, we are confirming an ambitious suite of targets to deliver on that commitment.

These targets will tackle some of the biggest pressures facing our environment. They will ensure progress on clean air, clean and plentiful water, less waste and more sustainable use of our resources, a step change in tree planting, a better marine environment, and a more diverse, resilient natural environment.

The thirteen targets that will be laid through statutory instruments are as follows:

Biodiversity on land

- To halt the decline in species abundance by 2030.
- To ensure that species abundance in 2042 is greater than in 2022, and at least 10% greater than 2030.
- Improve the Red List Index for England for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.
- To restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels.

Biodiversity in the sea

- 70% of the designated features in the MPA network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition.

Water quality and availability

- Abandoned metal mines target: Halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned mines by 2038, against a baseline of around 1,500 km.
- Agriculture target: Reduce nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline.
- Wastewater target: Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 against a 2020 baseline.
- Water Demand Target: Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% from the 2019/20 baseline reporting year figures, by 2037/38.

Woodland cover

- Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050.

Resource efficiency and waste reduction

- Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per capita by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels.

Air quality

- An Annual Mean Concentration Target for PM2.5 levels in England to be 10 µg m⁻³ or below by 2040.
- A Population Exposure Reduction Target for a reduction in PM2.5 population exposure of 35% compared to 2018 to be achieved by 2040.

The suite of targets that we consulted on was the result of significant scientific evidence collection and development over preceding years that included input from evidence partners and independent experts, supported by over 800 pages of published evidence. We have full confidence in the final suite of targets, which represents the robust analysis already undertaken.

These targets are stretching and will be challenging for us to meet, whether that is through Government, through business or indeed at home in our individual lives through choices we make. In turn this will support action to tackle climate change, restore our natural capital and protect our much-loved landscapes and green spaces.

We will set out more details about our plans to deliver them in our Environmental Improvement Plan: our manifesto for the environment for the next 5 years. We publish this by 31 January, as required by law.

The government response to the consultation will be published on gov.uk.

Serious Violence Duty: Statutory Guidance

[HLWS448]

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and it includes provisions for the Serious Violence Duty.

The Duty requires, specified authorities, namely police, fire and rescue services, health, local authorities, youth offending teams and probation services to work collaboratively, share data and information and put in place a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence. Educational authorities and prisons/youth custodial institutions are also under a separate duty to co-operate with specified authorities. As announced in the then Crime and Policing Ministers statement of 9 June 2002, the Government held a formal public consultation on a Draft Statutory Guidance. This guidance is issued by the Secretary of State under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the PCSC 2022 and supports the specified authorities across England and Wales in exercising their functions under the Duty prior to its commencement on 31 January 2023.

Via the consultation, we sought views on the contents of the guidance including policy intentions for the secondary legislation, which were laid on 12 December, and we also requested separate feedback on what support partners might find beneficial to enable them to implement the Duty effectively. This insight has helped finalise our plans for a local support offer. Further case studies were also requested which will form part of this package of local support. We would like to thank all those

who contributed to the consultation, including those who officials engaged with directly through a series of sessions. The views received covered a range of issues but there was clear consensus on key areas that needed clarifying. This included clearer local accountability and responsibilities for local partnerships and Police and Crime Commissioners and additional clarity on the inclusion of domestic abuse and sexual offences under the

Duty. These are set out in the Government's consultation response along with our plans for commencement of the Duty and addressed in the revised statutory guidance which are both published today.

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

Written Answers

Friday, 16 December 2022

Abdulahadi al-Khawaja

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to reports that imprisoned human rights defender Abdulhadi al-Khawaja is facing a series of new criminal charges in Bahrain as a result of his protest activities from within prison, what representations they will make to the government of that country (1) to raise concerns over any such action, and (2) to call for al-Khawaja immediate and unconditional release. [[HL3917](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK continues to follow developments on matters that relate to human rights within Bahrain, including Abdulhadi al-Khawaja's case. Our close and long-standing ties with Bahrain allow UK Ministers and senior officials to raise sensitive human rights issues, including cases, regularly, privately and effectively. Most recently the Foreign Secretary met with his Bahraini counterpart during the IISS Manama Dialogue in November 2022, where human rights was raised amongst other issues.

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Asked by *Baroness Scott of Needham Market*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 1 December (HL3482), whether they can provide a breakdown of the £194 million grant by (1) hydrogen fuel cells, (2) other electric battery technologies, (3) hydrogen combustion, (4) synthetic liquid fuels, and (5) biofuels. [[HL3975](#)]

Lord Callanan: A breakdown of ATI Programme R&D grants awarded, by individual project, are set out in the table below. Co-funded R&D project supported through the ATI Programme typically involve a range of collaborators including industry partners, universities and research organisations (the ATI Programme has an average of 4 partners per project). Further project information and descriptions can be found on UKRI's Gateway to Research (gtr.ukri.org) and the ATI website (ati.org.uk).

Bahrain: Charities

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 24 November (HL Deb cols 1544–50), in which he said that they engage “effectively with civil society” in Bahrain, whether they will list the names of civil society actors in Bahrain with which they have engaged during the last 24 months. [[HL3915](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK Government continues work to maintain and develop relationships with civil society, including non-governmental organizations within Bahrain and internationally. This ensures that HMG draws on a wide range of sources regarding human rights issues in Bahrain. It would be inappropriate to publish a list of civil society actors with whom we engage.

Bahrain: Nationality

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 24 November (HL Deb cols 1544–50), in which he said that “there are clear areas where inequalities exist” in Bahrain including that “Bahraini women cannot pass on their nationality to their children”, what steps they are taking to address these issues. [[HL3914](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 7 November 2022, during Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review, the UK's formal statement included a recommendation that Bahrain amends its nationality laws so that Bahraini women married to foreigners can transmit Bahraini citizenship to their children.

Bahrain: Press Freedom

Asked by *Lord Scriven*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 24 November (HL Deb cols 1544–50) that “media freedom across the Gulf...is very limited”, and the Reporters Without Borders 2022 Press Freedom Index which ranked Bahrain 167 out of 180 countries for press freedom, what representations they have made to the government of Bahrain in support of greater media freedom in that country. [[HL3916](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 7 November 2022, during Bahrain's Universal Periodic Review, the UK's formal statement included a recommendation that Bahrain moves quickly to pass the Journalism and E-Media Law, to ensure stronger protections for journalists and enhance wider media freedoms.

Cars: Hire Services

Asked by *Lord Chadlington*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of car hire companies not accepting customers aged 75 years or over; and what steps they will take to ensure that older drivers are not unfairly discriminated against. [[HL3996](#)]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: Such refusals would be potentially unlawful under the Equality Act 2010. This legislation provides that it is unlawful age discrimination for a service provider such as a car hire company to refuse, on age grounds, to lease a vehicle to an otherwise

qualified person, unless the company can, when challenged, objectively justify its decision.

Where a company cannot, in those circumstances, show that their leasing age policy is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim, the individual affected can bring a claim to the County Court, or Sheriff's Court in Scotland. The court may determine whether the "objective justification test" has been satisfied, and may award costs and compensation if the claimant wins their case. A range of guidance is available to service providers on their obligations and to service users on their rights, most notably on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's website: <https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>, and through the Equality and Advisory and Support Service (EASS). The EASS can be contacted via its website, <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>, by telephone on 0808 800 0082 (or by text phone on 0808 800 0084).

Climate Change

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the World Climate Declaration. [HL3971]

Lord Callanan: The Government is aware of the World Climate Declaration but relies on the assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the global authority on climate science, to inform Government policy.

Energy Bills Rebate: Meters

Asked by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to identify, and (2) to support, the estimated two million households on non-digital pay-as-you-go energy meters; and what plans they have, if any, to assess the scale of energy self-disconnection this winter. [HL3962]

Lord Callanan: Traditional prepayment meter customers will automatically receive the same discount per unit of energy as other customers through the Energy Price Guarantee.

Ofgem's rules require energy suppliers to identify and support prepayment meter customers at risk of self-disconnection through the provision of emergency credit and additional support credit. Ofgem has recently undertaken a Market Compliance Review assessing how suppliers support customers in vulnerable situations, including those on prepayment meters. To drive improvements, Ofgem has started compliance engagement with suppliers and asked them to take action to address the weaknesses that have been identified.

Energy Bills Rebate: Northern Ireland

Asked by Lord Rogan

To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions (1) ministers, and (2) civil servants, have had with Members of Parliament representing seats in Northern Ireland in each of the last six months about the Energy Bills Support Scheme and its implementation in Northern Ireland. [HL3972]

Lord Callanan: The UK Government has been working at pace with a range of different stakeholders to deliver this support to households in Northern Ireland. BEIS Ministers have engaged in debates and drop-in sessions with MPs to share progress and answer questions.

Equal Pay

Asked by Baroness Goudie

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to close the gender the pay gap, and (2) to end unequal pay for, and discrimination against, women. [HL3698]

Baroness Stedman-Scott: This Government is committed to the empowerment of women in the workplace. Over the last decade our work has seen the gender pay gap fall considerably, with mandatory gender pay gap reporting regulations helping to motivate employers to improve equality in the workplace, and strong growth in the number of women in full-time work.

To drive forward this progress we have recently announced a ground-breaking pay transparency pilot, a new STEM returners programme and a Taskforce on Women-Led High-Growth Enterprises. In combination, this work will ensure that all women are able to reach their full career potential, improving gender equality in the workplace, and helping to further narrow the gender pay gap.

We also remain committed to the Equality Act 2010, which contains strong protections from discrimination on the basis of sex, and reaffirms fundamental equal pay protections.

Foreign Investment in UK: China

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current overall level of financial investment from China to the UK. [HL4040]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority.

A response to the Hon. Member's Parliamentary Question: PQ HL4040 is attached.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Financial Investment from China
[UKSA_Response_to_PQHL4040 (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-12-05/HL4040>

Fuel Oil: Prices

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Callanan on 17 November (HL3214), why they have no plans for a price cap on alternative fuel. [HL3974]

Lord Callanan: The markets for alternative fuels – including heating oil, coal, LPG, and biomass – contain a large range of suppliers not subject to the same regulation as electricity and gas suppliers. This means there is no single regulated standard price to modify by the imposition of a price cap.

The Government has doubled support to £200 for alternatively fuelled households, in recognition of the pressures caused by these rising fuel costs. The Government will continue to monitor the prices of alternative fuels and will consider further intervention if required to protect UK households from extraordinary fuel prices.

Headteachers: Pensions

Asked by *Lord Boateng*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of changes to the tax free limits to lifetime pension pots on the retention of head teachers in England and Wales. [HL3963]

Baroness Barran: The department considers a wide range of policy matters with the Teachers' Pension Scheme Advisory Board to ensure that the pension continues to be a key benefit in attracting and retaining teachers and head teachers in England and Wales.

The lifetime allowance for pensions is being maintained by HM Treasury at its current level of £1,073,100 until April 2026. This allows head teachers and other savers to continue to make significant amounts of pension savings tax-free, while ensuring incentives to save are targeted across society.

The government keeps all aspects of the tax system under review, as part of the annual Budget process, and in the context of the wider public finances.

High Speed 2 Line: Expenditure

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 5 December (HL3685), how much was approved by

Parliament for spending on HS2 (1) Phase 1, (2) Phase 2A, and (3) Phase 2B West; and what was the date of each approval. [HL4045]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government's spending plans are set out in the Central Government's annual Supply Estimates, the latest of which were presented to Parliament on 23 June 2022 and can be accessed on www.gov.uk. The voted elements of these spending plans were originally set out in Spending Review 2021 and updated at subsequent fiscal events.

Iran

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the 35th special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Iran on 24 November, what support they plan to give to the Council's fact-finding investigation into human rights abuses in Iran. [HL3941]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On 24 November, the UK voted in support of the Human Rights Council's resolution to establish a UN investigation into the Iranian Government appalling human rights violations. This is a vital step towards accountability. The UK has long raised human rights with the Iranian Government at all appropriate opportunities, both directly and in multilateral fora. We will continue to work with our international partners to hold Iran to account, including in calling for Iran to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran access to the country so he can properly and impartially investigate the reported abuses.

Opera

Asked by *Lord Freyberg*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay on 1 December (HL3495 and HL3496), what is Art Council England's national opera strategy; and whether they will put on hold their plans to withdraw all national programme funding from English National Opera until one has been published. [HL3933]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Arts Council England made its decisions regarding its 2023–26 Investment Programme in line with its published guidance and its ten year strategy, 'Let's Create', which covers all art forms, and which can be found on its website at: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create>.

Assessments were carried out by Arts Council England staff, based on balancing criteria published in its funding guidance, and were made by its Area and National Councils, which include both local representatives and people who work in the sector.

More opera organisations will be funded in the new Investment Programme portfolio than in the preceding one, and opera accounts for 40 per cent of funding for music in the new portfolio. His Majesty's Government

will continue to work with Arts Council England to understand the impacts of its investment in arts and culture, including on opera.

Pakistan: Centre for Social Justice Pakistan

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Guildford***

To ask His Majesty's Government what support they provide to the Centre for Social Justice in Pakistan. [HL3895]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is a long-term supporter of civil society in Pakistan, and we engage with the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) as part of our work on human rights. I conducted a roundtable discussion with human rights stakeholders - including Peter Jacobs, Executive Director of CSJ - on 15 October, discussing open societies and the work of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). We continue to engage with the Government of Pakistan to ensure NGOs such as CSJ can operate effectively.

Pakistan: Charities and Non-governmental Organisations

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Guildford***

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support civil society organisations and non-government organisations in Pakistan in making submissions under the 4th Universal Periodic Review of Pakistan. [HL3896]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process that allows states to reflect critically on their own human rights record. As a founding member of the UN Human Rights Council, the UK has always advocated for the UN human rights fora and will continue to support the Council and the tools and mechanisms it uses, including the UPR process. The UK government will continue to support civil society and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) - including in Pakistan - to fully engage with the UPR process wherever possible.

Pakistan: Non-governmental Organisations

*Asked by **The Lord Bishop of Leeds***

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the government of Pakistan's rules regarding the registration and operation of international NGOs in that country and the impact that these rules have had on the work of NGOs that His Majesty's Government supports. [HL3905]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs) are important partners for the UK. They deliver relief to some of the poorest people in Pakistan. The UK government has raised the matter of forced closures of INGOs with the Government of Pakistan and continues to engage on this

issue. We continue to urge a clear and transparent process to ensure INGOs can operate effectively in Pakistan.

Palestinians: Human Rights

*Asked by **Lord Pickles***

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to reports of the detention and intimidation of Palestinian human rights activists in the Palestinian territories, what recent discussions the Foreign Secretary has had with the Palestinian Authority about the activities of the PA Preventative Security Organisation. [HL3908]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Human Rights is a crucial element underpinning the UK's foreign policy. We continue to urge the Palestinian Authority (PA) to respect human rights, to ensure complaints of mistreatment or arbitrary detention are properly investigated and to continue to improve the performance of the security sector. An essential aspect of our efforts to prepare the ground for a two state-solution is to support a stable PA that can deliver services to its people and act as an effective partner for peace with Israel. The UK will continue to monitor these areas closely and raise with the highest levels of the PA.

Railways: Fares

*Asked by **Baroness Randerson***

To ask His Majesty's Government what is their anticipated timescale for the introduction of a reformed fare structure for rail throughout England; and when do they plan to introduce integrated ticketing for rail passengers. [HL4108]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Government has made clear that we want to simplify the current mass of complicated fares and tickets, whilst protecting affordable turn up and go tickets and season tickets. We have already made progress on fares reforms, for example introducing flexible season tickets last year and introducing a trial of single leg pricing on LNER and are also working with stakeholders and local authorities on proposals for Pay-As-You-Go in urban areas.

Railways: Manchester Airport

*Asked by **Lord Scriven***

To ask His Majesty's Government whether the Manchester Recovery Task Force formally consulted (1) Sheffield City Council, (2) the Mayor of South Yorkshire, and (3) Doncaster Council, on the withdrawal of the direct Sheffield to Manchester Airport train service; and if so, (1) on what dates, and (2) what responses were received. [HL4177]

Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The Manchester Taskforce received over 800 responses from stakeholders. These included the Mayor of South Yorkshire, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield City Region Transport and Environment Board, which includes representatives from

Doncaster Council, and which were received between 5 and 18 March 2021.

The full list of respondents can be found on page 27 under Annex A of the summary document produced after the consultation closed.

Recycling: Labelling

Asked by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the new regulations regarding mandatory recyclability labelling are enforced effectively. [HL4060]

Lord Benyon: The regulations will set out the role of the enforcement authority and the offences and penalties that will apply to businesses that do not comply with the labelling requirements. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has agreed in principle to become the enforcement body and is advising us on the development of the monitoring and enforcement regime.

Refugees: Afghanistan

Asked by Lord Rosser

To ask His Majesty's Government why individuals who enter under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme are not currently included in the quarterly Immigration Statistics publications; and what plans, if any, they have to include them. [HL4035]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority.

A response to the noble Lord's Parliamentary Question of 5 December is attached.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician
The Lord Rosser
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW
12 December 2022

Dear Lord Rosser,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking why individuals who enter under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme are not currently included in the quarterly Immigration Statistics publications; and what plans, if any, they have to include them (HL4035).

In your question, you refer to "quarterly immigration statistics publications". If referring to the Home Office data Immigration statistics, year ending September 2022[1], this was published on 24 November 2022, and contains a webpage entitled 'How many people do we grant protection to?' [2]. This page provides details of the inclusion of people resettled from Afghanistan in those statistics (see section 1.1 Resettlement).

The Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR), has not been published since August 2020[3] and therefore will not contain information on the Afghan citizen resettlement scheme, which opened on 6 January 2022[4]. In our most recent Long-term international migration bulletin (published on 24 November 2022), Section 4, Migration Events[5] details that around 21,000 Afghans arrived in the UK and are included in the ONS' total longterm international migration estimates.

This figure is based on published Home Office operational data, which estimates around 21,000 arrivals are associated with Operation PITTING (the evacuation of people from Afghanistan in August 2021), and are included in our total immigration estimates. This figure will include some British nationals. Similar to those arriving on the Ukrainian Visa Schemes, in the absence of reliable evidence to suggest otherwise, this subpopulation are included under the assumption that they are arriving in the UK for 12 months or more. This means that these estimates will be an upper bound for these populations and may be revised down once we have more information on their actual length of stay. Please see the Measuring the data section[6] for more detail on our methods.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

[1]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2022>

[2]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2022/how-many-people-do-we-grant-protection-to>

[3]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/previousReleases>

[4]

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

[5]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingjune2022#migration-events>

[6]

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingjune2022#measuring-the-data>

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme
[UKSA_Response_to_PQHL4035.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-12-05/HL4035>

Research: Finance

Asked by Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation on 21 November (HCWS376), what proportion of the funding announced for the UK R&D sector they expect will be allocated to universities in Scotland; and what steps they are taking to ensure that universities in Scotland receive their full share of R&D funding. [[HL3964](#)]

Lord Callanan: The Government's priority is to support the UK's world class R&D sector. We have put in

place this additional funding to shore up talent and invest in R&D infrastructure across the UK, while also aiming to secure the UK fusion sectors' commercial leadership and capabilities.

We are committed to levelling up and where funding delivered via UKRI is England only, there will be an additional funding allocation for the Devolved administrations. The approach to funding distribution is being developed and my Hon. Friend the Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation has written to DA colleagues on this matter. Further details will be announced in due course.

Index to Statements and Answers

Written Statements.....	1
Education Funding.....	1
Environmental Targets	2
Serious Violence Duty: Statutory Guidance.....	2
Written Answers.....	4
Abdulahadi al-Khawaja.....	4
Aviation: Carbon Emissions.....	4
Bahrain: Charities.....	4
Bahrain: Nationality	4
Bahrain: Press Freedom.....	4
Cars: Hire Services.....	4
Climate Change	5
Energy Bills Rebate: Meters.....	5
Energy Bills Rebate: Northern Ireland	5
Equal Pay.....	5
Foreign Investment in UK: China	5
Fuel Oil: Prices	6
Headteachers: Pensions	6
High Speed 2 Line: Expenditure	6
Iran.....	6
Opera	6
Pakistan: Centre for Social Justice Pakistan.....	7
Pakistan: Charities and Non-governmental Organisations.....	7
Pakistan: Non-governmental Organisations	7
Palestinians: Human Rights.....	7
Railways: Fares	7
Railways: Manchester Airport.....	7
Recycling: Labelling	8
Refugees: Afghanistan.....	8
Research: Finance.....	9