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**Wednesday**  
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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>
<b>Lord True</b>	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
<b>Earl Howe</b>	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords
<b>Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon</b>	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>Baroness Barran</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education
<b>Lord Bellamy</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice
<b>Lord Benyon</b>	Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist</b>	Spokesperson, Wales Office, Whip
<b>Lord Caine</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office
<b>Lord Callanan</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Earl of Courtown</b>	Deputy Chief Whip
<b>Lord Davies of Gower</b>	Whip
<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
<b>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</b>	Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
<b>Lord Harlech</b>	Whip
<b>Lord Johnson of Lainston</b>	Minister of State, Department for International Trade
<b>Lord Markham</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
<b>Lord Murray of Blidworth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
<b>Baroness Neville-Rolfe</b>	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
<b>Lord Offord of Garvel</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
<b>Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
<b>Baroness Penn</b>	Parliamentary Secretary, HM Treasury
<b>Baroness Scott of Bybrook</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
<b>Lord Sharpe of Epsom</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
<b>Lord Stewart of Dirlerton</b>	Advocate-General for Scotland
<b>Baroness Vere of Norbiton</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
<b>Baroness Williams of Trafford</b>	Chief Whip
<b>Viscount Younger of Leckie</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions

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# Written Statements

Wednesday, 11 January 2023

## Higher Education Student Fees and Support

[HLWS482]

**Baroness Barran:** My Right Honourable Friend the Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education (Robert Halfon) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am announcing details of student fees and support arrangements for higher education students undertaking a course of study in the 2023/24 academic year starting on 1 August 2023 together with further help to address additional cost of living pressures in 2022/23. Also, I am confirming that students starting designated Higher Technical Qualifications in 2023/24 will qualify for fee loans and loans for living costs for the first time, eligibility for student finance will be extended to certain family members of those granted leave under the main Ukrainian schemes, and eligibility for family members of the Afghan schemes has been brought into line with refugees and their family members.

I can confirm today that maximum tuition fees for undergraduate students for the 2023/24 academic year in England will be maintained at the levels that apply in the 2022/23 academic year, the sixth year in succession that fees have been frozen. This means that the maximum level of tuition fees for a standard full-time course will remain at £9,250 for the 2023/24 academic year. Maximum fees will also be frozen for the 2024/25 academic year to deliver better value for students and to keep the cost of higher education down.

Maximum undergraduate loans for living costs will be increased by forecast inflation, 2.8%, in 2023/24. And the same increase will apply to the maximum disabled students' allowance for students with disabilities undertaking full-time and part-time undergraduate courses in 2023/24. Maximum grants for students with child or adult dependants who are attending full-time undergraduate courses will also increase by 2.8% in 2023/24.

We are also increasing support for students undertaking postgraduate courses in 2023/24. Maximum loans for students starting master's degree and doctoral degree courses from 1 August 2023 onwards will be increased by 2.8% in 2023/24. And the same increase will apply to the maximum disabled students' allowance for postgraduate students with disabilities in 2023/24.

The Government is introducing a new type of qualification at levels 4 and 5 of the Regulated Qualifications Framework, the Higher Technical Qualification, which aims to improve the quality of technical education on offer and encourage more people to take higher technical courses which improve their employment prospects and meet employers' skills needs. I

am confirming today that eligible students undertaking designated full-time and part-time Higher Technical Qualifications that have been approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education will qualify for fee loans and living costs support.

I am also confirming today that home fee status, tuition fee loans and living costs support will be extended to certain family members of all persons granted leave under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, the Ukraine Extension Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme. Additionally, student support and home fee status of certain family members of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be aligned with the treatment of family members of refugees, persons granted humanitarian protection and stateless leave. These changes will benefit these vulnerable students.

The Government recognises the additional cost of living pressures that have arisen this year and that have impacted students.

We have already made £261 million of student premium funding available for the 2022/23 academic year to support successful outcomes for disadvantaged students. The Department for Education has worked with the Office for Students (OfS) to make clear universities can draw on this funding to boost their own hardship funds and support students in most need.

Today we are making a one-off reallocation of funding so we can add £15 million to this year's student premium, enabling extra hardship awards to be made to tens of thousands of disadvantaged students. This extra funding will complement the help universities are providing through their own, bursary, scholarship and hardship support schemes.

In addition, all households will save on their energy bills through the Energy Price Guarantee and the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme discount. Students who buy their energy from a domestic supplier are eligible for the energy bills discount.

The Energy Prices Act passed on 25th October includes the provision to require landlords to pass benefits they receive from energy price support, as appropriate, onto end users. Further details of the requirements under this Act are set out in the legislation.

Further details of the student support package for 2023/24 are set out in the attached document.

I expect to lay regulations implementing changes to student finance support for undergraduates and postgraduates for 2023/24 shortly. These regulations will be subject to Parliamentary procedure.

The Statement includes the following attached material:

Higher Education Student Support: Details [Higher Education Fees and Student Support for 2023 2024 Details.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2023-01-11/HLWS482/>

## Written Answers

Wednesday, 11 January 2023

### Afghanistan: Females

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that women in Afghanistan will no longer be allowed to continue their university education. [HL4468]

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Government condemns the Taliban's decision to ban women from university. This is a further violation of the rights of Afghan women and will have damaging consequences, including for the Afghan economy. On 21 December, the Foreign Secretary co-signed a statement by foreign ministers and, on 22 December, I [Lord Ahmad] issued a statement saying we will not support any restoration of waivers to UN travel bans for sanctioned Taliban until women and girls are allowed to attend secondary school and university. With the international community, we will consider further action to persuade the Taliban to abandon their regressive measures.

### Gambling: Suicide

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask His Majesty's Government how many customer suicides have been reported by gambling operators in each of the past five years. [HL4504]

**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 21 December is attached.

Professor Sir Ian Diamond | National Statistician

The Rt Rev. The Lord Bishop of St Albans

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0PW

10 January 2023

Dear Lord Bishop,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question asking how many customer suicides have been reported by gambling operators in each of the past five years (HL4504). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes statistics on deaths registered in England and Wales. Mortality statistics are

compiled from information supplied when deaths are certified and registered as part of civil registration. As gambling operators do not contribute to this process, the ONS does not hold any information on suicides that have been reported by gambling operators.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Response to HL4504 [UKSA\_Response\_to\_PQHL4504 (1).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2022-12-21/HL4504>

### Rainforests: Brazil

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to encourage the government of Brazil to avoid the destruction of the Amazon forest. [HL4486]

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The UK is concerned about deforestation in the Amazon, which is having a detrimental impact on global climate and environmental conservation goals. The Government monitors trends of forest loss across the Amazon region, including Brazil, to inform our efforts.

We have a long-established partnership with Brazil which aims to: i) improve the capacity of governments to reduce deforestation; ii) incentivise forest protection through results-based payments that are re-invested to protect forests, and boost livelihoods; iii) enable business and communities to grow rural economies sustainable whilst protecting forests.

The UK welcomes the commitment made by President Lula on his recent inauguration to end deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon under his mandate. We stand ready to work closely with the incoming administration in Brazil to achieve this, which the Prime Minister has discussed with President Lula.

At COP26, international donors including the UK announced support of \$12 billion to assist forest nations to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030. This included a UK commitment of £300 million to support efforts in the Amazon region. The UK continues to support work with indigenous communities across Brazil, who are central to forest conservation efforts, including through the launch of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge which aims to help indigenous people secure their land rights.

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