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**Monday**  
**16 January 2023**

**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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<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
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<b>Baroness Goldie</b>	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
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<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

*Monday, 16 January 2023*

## Green Freeports in Scotland

[HLWS490]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations (The Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 13 January, the UK and Scottish governments jointly announced that the Firth of Forth, and Inverness and Cromarty Firth have been successful in their bids to establish two new Green Freeports.

Green Freeport status will support the creation of over 75,000 new, high-skilled jobs, drive growth and level up areas that have been previously overlooked. These areas will be backed by up to £52 million in UK Government funding, and potentially hundreds of millions in locally retained business rates, to upgrade local infrastructure and stimulate regeneration. This is alongside a generous package of trade and innovation support for businesses locating there.

The Inverness and Cromarty Firth, and the Firth of Forth are excellent locations for these new Green Freeports, ensuring the benefits are felt right across Scotland. I wish to share my congratulations with the successful locations. Their strong bids demonstrated how they will regenerate their local communities, deliver decarbonisation, establish hubs for global trade and pioneer industries of the future.

Freeports are at the vanguard of Levelling Up: driving growth, creating jobs and, in turn, transforming the communities that surround them. Green Freeports in Scotland will build on the UK Government's successful Freeport programme in England, where all eight Freeports are open for business, with sites in Plymouth and South Devon, Solent, and Teesside, Liverpool, and the East of England, recently being granted final government approval. Green Freeports are a tangible example of what can be achieved and delivered when Scotland's two governments work together.

This Government remains committed to ensuring that the whole of the UK can reap the benefits of our Freeports programme. We will be making a Freeports announcement relating to Wales shortly and we continue discussions with stakeholders in Northern Ireland about how best to deliver the benefits associated with Freeports there.

## Reform of the Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme

[HLWS489]

**Lord Murray of Blidworth:** My right hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration (Robert Jenrick) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

This Government is determined to crack down on illegal migration, to dismantle the organised criminal gangs behind it and to keep our borders safe and secure.

For over twenty years, we have run a scheme to help us to do just this – the Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme. The Scheme is designed to complement law enforcement activity against criminals. It does this through tackling negligence by people who are not criminals but whose carelessness nonetheless means that they are responsible for a clandestine entrant gaining access to a vehicle.

During the financial year 2020-2021, there were 3,145 incidents where clandestine entrants were detected concealed in vehicles, despite the Covid-19 pandemic causing a lower volume of traffic. This rose to 3,838 incidents during the financial year 2021-2022.

The Government is therefore concerned that the Scheme is not having enough of an effect. Existing penalty levels have not changed since 2002. Drivers and other responsible persons are not taking the steps required to secure their vehicles, and clandestine entrants are continuing to use these routes to come to the UK.

The Government committed to reform the Scheme in 2021, running a consultation in the summer of 2022. We are today publishing our response to that consultation, setting out plans to deliver what will be the first overhaul of the Scheme since 2002.

Our reforms, including new penalty levels, have been designed to strike a better balance between disincentivising negligence and failures to comply with vehicle security standards, while ensuring that the regime is not overly burdensome on industry.

We will now be commencing relevant parts of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and further commencing relevant parts of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. We are also laying a statutory instrument to set out new security standards for all vehicles and to establish new maximum penalty levels. We are laying a new statutory code of practice to set out the circumstances in which a person might be eligible for a reduction in the level of their penalty. We are in addition publishing an economic note and an equality impact assessment.

It is our intention, subject to the will of Parliament, for these reforms to take effect on Monday 13 February 2023. Between now and then, we will deliver a four-week period of engagement with drivers and industry, to make sure they know about the changes that are coming and to support compliance.

The Government is committed to working with individuals and companies to support growth while delivering a strong and effective border. These reforms will help us to do just that.

A copy of the consultation response and the economic note will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are publishing further information on Gov.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clandestine-entrant-civil-penalty-scheme>.

### **Stamp Duty Land Tax (Temporary Relief) Bill**

[HLWS488]

**Baroness Penn:** I have considered the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Temporary Relief) Bill in relation to Section 19(1)(a) of the Human Rights Act 1998. In my view, all its provisions are compatible with the convention rights.

## Written Answers

Monday, 16 January 2023

### Iran: Politics and Government

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government what is their Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability assessment of the situation in Iran; how this is affected by the reports that Russia has been sending advanced military equipment to Iran in exchange for drones; and what steps they are taking, including with international partners, to assess the risk of further serious human rights violations in Iran. [\[HL4469\]](#)

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Iran's support for the Russian military campaign in Ukraine is deplorable and the supply of drones is in violation of UN Security Council resolution 2231. Russia is offering Iran an unprecedented level of military support, transforming their defence relationship and strengthening Iranian capability, further threatening regional and international security. Recent executions of young people detained in connection to protests shows the Iranian authorities' callous disregard for their citizens' lives. At a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 24 November, the UK and our partners established an investigative mechanism into the regime's human rights violations in response to protests. We continue to urge Iran to improve its human rights record at all opportunities, including working with international partners to ensure accountability.

### NHS: Protective Clothing

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government how they intend to report any money returned to public funds from suppliers of defective personal protective equipment [\[HL3791\]](#)

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government how they will notify parliament about money returned to public funds by defaulting suppliers of personal protective equipment if individual settlements are protected by commercial secrecy rules. [\[HL3792\]](#)

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government how they intend to provide (1) transparency, and (2) accountability, concerning money returned to public funds by defaulting suppliers of personal protective equipment. [\[HL3793\]](#)

**Lord Markham:** In my remarks of 30 November 2022 in response to Baroness Smith of Basildon, Volume 825, column 1785, I committed to place further information on the money returned to the taxpayer to date in the Libraries of both Houses. While we cannot currently report on ongoing discussions with providers of personal protective equipment deemed as unsatisfactory, we will do so where these engagements have concluded. Officials are currently collating and validating this information and determining how Parliament can be regularly informed of progress in future.

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