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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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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
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<b>Lord Murray of Blidworth</b>	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office
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<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 Dirleton</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

Friday, 20 January 2023

## Defibrillators in Schools

[HLWS498]

**Baroness Barran:** The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that the first deliveries of defibrillators to state-funded schools in England are taking place this week. The programme seeks to ensure that all schools have access to defibrillators. To do this, the department has procured over 20,000 defibrillators for schools, with deliveries expected to be completed over this academic year.

The department has worked with leading charities, including the British Heart Foundation, the Oliver King Foundation, Resuscitation Council UK and St John Ambulance to update its defibrillator guidance. This revised guidance will give schools the tools they need to successfully manage their defibrillators and maximise access, where appropriate. The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/automate-d-external-defibrillators-aeds-in-schools>.

In addition, the department is providing awareness videos, showing how simple defibrillators are to use and will be encouraging schools to share these videos in staff meetings and assemblies. By providing defibrillators and raising awareness, this programme will help a generation of young people to feel confident and able to use this life saving equipment.

Research shows that cardiac arrest is more likely to happen during sporting activities. Therefore, secondary schools with two or more defibrillators will also receive an internal cabinet, so that one defibrillator can be placed at the school sports facility. This will ensure that defibrillators are strategically placed where they are most needed and will maximise their availability to the community using the sports facility for clubs and other activities.

Research also shows that broader access to defibrillators is lower in certain areas. To address this, we will be targeting support to primary schools, special schools and alternative provision settings in areas which currently have lower provision who want to make their DfE-funded defibrillators accessible to their local community, an external defibrillator cabinet. This will support greater access to defibrillators for local communities in the areas that need it most.

The procurement for defibrillator cabinets is underway, and we expect deliveries to take place this year. More details will be released once the procurement has concluded.

## Government Response to the Deposit Return Scheme Consultation

[HLWS499]

**Lord Benyon:** My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Thérèse Coffey) has made the following Statement:

The Government is publishing its response to the 2021 consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme in England, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

The consultation confirmed strong public backing, with 83% of respondents including key industry players expressing support for a Deposit Return Scheme for single-use drinks containers. We will proceed with the scheme that covers cans and plastic bottles. The Deposit Return Scheme will boost recycling, significantly reduce drinks containers littered in our environment, and promote a circular economy by making it easier for consumers to recycle. The scheme aims to ensure 85% fewer drinks containers are discarded as litter after three years of its launch.

Today's publication is a critical milestone as it triggers the start for work towards introducing the Deposit Return Scheme in October 2025.

Government will take secondary legislation through Parliament to establish the necessary framework and obligations. The Welsh government will take legislation through the Senedd. This will be an industry led scheme, and we will work collaboratively with the relevant sectors to enable industry to establish the organisation, systems and infrastructure to operate a Deposit Return Scheme that will provide a step change in how we manage our waste.

## Independent Expert Assessment of Crustacean Mortality in the North-east of England in 2021 and 2022

[HLWS500]

**Lord Benyon:** My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Thérèse Coffey) has made the following Statement:

Today I am publishing the Independent Expert Assessment of Unusual Crustacean Mortality in the North-east of England in 2021 and 2022 on gov.uk.

The report documents the findings of the independent crustacean mortality expert panel (CMEP) convened by our Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Gideon Henderson.

The panel was convened in December 2022 to provide an independent scientific assessment of all the possible causes of the mass mortality incident using all relevant available data. I would like to thank the members of the panel for their work.

The independent panel concluded that pyridine or another toxic pollutant as the cause was very unlikely as was any link to dredging for the Freeport.

A novel pathogen is considered by the independent panel to be the most likely cause of mortality because it could explain the key observations including mortality over a sustained period and along over 40 miles of coastline, the unusual twitching of dying crabs and the deaths being predominantly crabs rather than other species.

I will consider carefully if further analysis by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) can ascertain conclusively the cause of this unusual mortality.

### **Third Party Material Consultation Response**

[HLWS497]

**Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My hon Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Safeguarding (Sarah Dines) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I am pleased to announce that the Government has today published its response to the public consultation on police requests for personal records or 'third party material'. This consultation was a key component on our

work to address how the criminal justice system responds to rape.

We launched this consultation to understand more about the issues surrounding police requests for personal records, how often these are unnecessary and disproportionate and how far they have a negative impact on investigation timelines.

I am grateful to all the respondents who came forward with their views and helped us to gain a clearer picture of the problems in this space. Respondents told us that victims of rape and other sexual offences are frequently subject to unnecessary and disproportionate requests for personal records, that police and CPS practice with regards to these kinds of requests are inconsistent and that victim confidence is severely impacted by having their privacy unnecessarily invaded, and by the lengthy investigations that can result from delays in requests for personal records.

The Government is therefore committing to legislation to address the issues of unnecessary and disproportionate requests for third party material when Parliamentary time allows, and to ensuring that victims feel safe to report crime in the knowledge that their private lives will not be unnecessarily invaded.

A copy of the Government response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and it will also be published on Gov.UK.

# Written Answers

Friday, 20 January 2023

## A66 and A303: Construction

Asked by *Lord Berkeley*

To ask His Majesty's Government what the latest cost benefit analysis and business cases are for (1) the Stonehenge road tunnel, and (2) the A66 road improvement between Scotch Corner and the M6; and what assessment they have made as to whether these works demonstrate good value for money. [[HL4541](#)]

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton:** The A303 Stonehenge project is being redetermined by the Secretary of State for Transport following an Order of the High Court made on 30 July 2021, the decision dated 12 November 2020, to grant development consent for the application by National Highways (formerly Highways England) was quashed. Further details on the re-determination process are published on the project page on the Planning Inspectorate's website. As this is a live planning application, the Department for Transport cannot comment further on the application.

The A66 Trans-Pennine project is at outline business case (OBC) stage and is currently under Development Consent Order examination. The OBC gives a BCR of 0.9, which does not include the benefits of further work to develop and refine the project. As this is a live planning application, the Department for Transport cannot comment further on the application.

## Conveyancing

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to review (1) the conveyancing system, and (2) associated legislation. [[HL4690](#)]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** Last year we signalled our intent in the Levelling Up White Paper to work with industry to improve the home buying and selling process. We are currently developing a detailed plan to take this work forward and will make further announcements in due course.

## Defence Equipment: Ukraine

Asked by *Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to cover the cost of military equipment supplied to Ukraine from central funds; and if so, how this amount will be calculated. [[HL4618](#)]

**Baroness Goldie:** The government remains committed to supporting Ukraine to defend itself in response to Putin's illegal invasion, providing £2.3 billion in military support to Ukraine in Financial Year 2022-23, as well as

additional funding for replenishment of stocks already donated to Ukraine.

Replenishment of granted assets is managed under a standing arrangement between the Ministry of Defence and HM Treasury, with funding provided from Treasury reserves.

## Ecology: Education

Asked by *Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle*

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have made to address (1) the collapse of provision of plant science education in the UK, and (2) the broader lack of nature literacy, as identified by the Scottish Government. [[HL4540](#)]

**Baroness Barran:** The government believes it is vital that young people are taught a broad and balanced curriculum, including about plants and nature, biodiversity, and our impact on the environment.

At COP26, the department announced its commitment to develop a primary science model curriculum with a focus on nature. On 9 January, the department published its 'Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain (2023 to 2028)', which sets out a commitment to protecting plant biosecurity in Great Britain, including raising awareness of the importance of healthy plants and trees.

These commitments support the existing requirements in the national curriculum for science and geography, that pupils are taught about plants through a range of topics including the requirements of plants for life and growth, how they vary from plant to plant, how to identify how plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways, and that adaptation may lead to evolution. In secondary science, within biology, pupils study plants in more depth including their importance in an ecosystem, positive and negative human interactions with ecosystems and the importance of biodiversity more broadly.

In geography pupils are taught about nature, including how systems interlink and how we affect our surroundings, natural environments, as well as a deep understanding of the Earth's physical processes. A key aim of GCSE geography is to ensure young people become environmentally informed. It requires pupils to understand the interactions between people and environments, global ecosystems and biodiversity, and human interaction with ecosystems and environments. Fieldwork also forms an important part of this GCSE.

The department has also announced the development of a new GCSE in natural history, to be taught from 2025, which will include opportunities for students to gain a deeper knowledge of the natural world around them.

## Low Incomes: Government Assistance

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask His Majesty's Government what further steps they are taking to provide cash support for low-income households. [[HL4598](#)]

**Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The Government's Energy Price Guarantee will save a typical British household around £900 this winter, based on what energy prices would have been under the current price cap - reducing bills by roughly a third.

For those who require additional support the current Household Support Fund, running in England from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, is providing £421 million of funding. The devolved administrations have been allocated £79 million through the Barnett formula.

The Household Support Fund will continue until March 2024. This year long extension allows Local Authorities in England to continue to provide discretionary support to those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The Devolved Administrations will receive consequential funding as usual to spend at their discretion.

All benefit rates and State Pensions will increase in line with the Consumer Prices Index for the year to September 2022. This will mean that, subject to parliamentary approval, they will increase by 10.1% in April. In order to increase the number of households who can benefit from these uprating decisions the benefit cap will also be increased by 10.1% subject to parliamentary approval.

In addition, for 2023/24, households on eligible means-tested benefits will get up to £900 in Cost of Living Payments. This will be split into three payments of around £300 each across the 2023/24 financial year. A separate £300 payment will be made to over eight million pensioner households on top of their Winter Fuel Payments and individuals in receipt of eligible disability benefits will receive a £150 payment. Further to this, the amended Energy Price Guarantee will save the average UK household £500 in 2023/24.

To further support those who are in work, from 1 April 2023 subject to parliamentary approval, the National Living Wage (NLW) will increase by 9.7% to £10.42 an hour for workers aged 23 and over - the largest ever cash increase for the NLW.

## NHS: Drugs

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask His Majesty's Government what are the responsibilities of the (1) National Homecare Medicines Committee, (2) National Clinical Homecare Association, (3) Care Quality Commission, (4) General Pharmaceutical Council, (5) Chief Pharmacist, (6) NHS Clinical Referring Centre, (7) NHS Pharmacy Homecare Teams, and (8) NHS Clinical Referring Centres, in regard to the provision of homecare medicines services; and whether any of those has responsibility to (a) change, or (b) cancel, contracts, with providers of homecare medicines in instances where they fail to deliver on their contracts; and if so, which one. [HL4702]

**Lord Markham:** Providers of Homecare Medicine services to National Health Service patients do so under

framework agreements which may be held at national at NHS England, regional at NHS procurement hubs or local at hospital trust level. This therefore requires a high degree of centralised co-ordination for which the National Homecare Medicines Committee (NHMC) supports and advises the NHS on matters relating to homecare medicines services. The Committee liaises with homecare providers through their trade association the National Clinical Homecare Association to support and co-ordinate development of the homecare market and discuss any system wide issues.

When the Key Performance Indicators indicate that the services levels of a provider on a national NHS England framework, NHS regional framework or contract are not to the standard expected, the NHMC, which is managed by and includes representation from NHS England, enacts an escalation process which involves meetings with individual providers to discuss safety and performance issues.

Each Chief Pharmacist within each NHS organisation, working with their NHS Clinical Referring Centre, is the responsible officer for the homecare medicines services that the hospital provides. Where the escalation process is in place, the affected provider will engage with this process and provide the NHS organisation with a summary of the issues, mitigations and expected timescales for recovery. If necessary, the regulators the Care Quality Commission and the General Pharmaceutical Council are also informed. If the NHS organisation is not satisfied that the required improvements and standards are being achieved then it can choose to change to another provider on the framework agreement, should the terms and conditions permit.

The contracting authority for a national and regional framework agreements may cancel the framework agreement for a provider by issuing a termination notice for a material breach of the terms of the framework which is not capable of remedy or not remedied in accordance with a remedial proposal in line with the terms and conditions of the framework agreement. Similar termination clauses are included in contracts and or framework agreements held directly between local NHS organisations and a provider for homecare medicines services.

## Parking: Codes of Practice

*Asked by Lord Lipsey*

To ask His Majesty's Government when they intend to reintroduce the Private Parking Code of Practice, which they temporarily withdrew in June 2022. [HL4580]

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** I refer the noble Lord to the answer given to PQ 54476 on 12 October 2022.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

PQ 54476 [HL4580- Written questions and answers - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2023-01-09/HL4580>

### Prisoners: Females

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask His Majesty's Government how many women in prison were sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983 in each of the last five years. [HL4699]

**Lord Bellamy:** Under sections 47/49 and 48/49 of the Mental Health Act 1983, the Secretary of State may authorise by warrant the transfer of female prisoners to a secure hospital, where he is satisfied that the criteria for detention are met.

The number of women prisoners transferred to hospital in each of the last five years are:

2021 – 184  
 2020 - 181  
 2019 - 213  
 2018 - 192  
 2017 – 180

The data for 2022 are not currently available, they are due for publication later this year.

### Schools: Buildings

*Asked by The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Department for Education's Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, published on 19 December 2022, what urgent steps they are taking to address serious structural issues which have been identified in school buildings, particularly those built between 1945 and 1970; and what additional infrastructure funding they are making available for this purpose. [HL4717]

**Baroness Barran:** Safe and well-maintained school buildings are a priority for the department, including those built between 1945 and 1970. That is why we have allocated over £13 billion since 2015 for improving the condition of schools, including £1.8 billion in the 2022/23 financial year, informed by consistent data on the condition of the estate. In addition, the School Rebuilding Programme will carry out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at 500 schools across England, with buildings prioritised based on their condition. There are now 400 projects in the programme, with the most recent set of 239 schools announced in December 2022.

There are no open areas of school or college buildings where the department is aware of an imminent risk to life due to the condition of the buildings. Where the department is alerted to significant safety issues with a building that cannot be managed within local resources, we provide additional support on a case-by-case basis. We also provide extensive guidance for schools and those

responsible for school buildings to manage their estates effectively.

### Typhoon Aircraft

*Asked by Lord Goddard of Stockport*

To ask His Majesty's Government how many Typhoon aircraft, in service with the Royal Air Force, were deployed abroad at the end of 2022. [HL4554]

**Baroness Goldie:** As at 13 January 2023 a total of 27 RAF Typhoon aircraft are deployed overseas. In addition, further Typhoon aircraft are conducting operational missions from their home bases in the UK, undertaking Quick Reaction Alert and contributing to the security of NATO's Eastern flank.

*Asked by Lord Goddard of Stockport*

To ask His Majesty's Government how many Royal Air Force pilots were qualified to fly Typhoon aircraft operationally at the end of 2022. [HL4555]

**Baroness Goldie:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or the security of the Armed Forces.

*Asked by Lord Goddard of Stockport*

To ask His Majesty's Government how many Royal Air Force reservists at the end of 2022 had qualified to fly Typhoon aircraft during their service. [HL4556]

**Baroness Goldie:** I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or the security of the Armed Forces.

### Ukraine: Challenger Tanks

*Asked by Lord Jopling*

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to send Challenger 2 tanks to assist the Government of Ukraine; how many shells will be provided that are suitable for a rifled barrel; and whether any other government has those shells available, given that Challenger 2 is the only battle tank within the NATO alliance that is capable of using this type of ammunition. [HL4665]

**Baroness Goldie:** As confirmed by the Secretary of State on 16 January 2023, the UK will send a squadron of 14 Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, together with armoured recovery and repair vehicles. The gifting of these tanks is part of a significant new package of combat power to increase Ukraine's capabilities and accelerate Ukrainian success on the battlefield.

The UK will provide Ukraine with thousands of rounds of tank ammunition.

The UK is the only NATO nation which holds the required ammunition for Challenger 2.

## Ukraine: Guided Weapons

*Asked by Lord Blencathra*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to supply Ukraine with missiles with sufficient range to destroy missile systems in Russia which may be targeting civilian infrastructure in Ukraine. [[HL4703](#)]

**Baroness Goldie:** The UK will keep our support to Ukraine under review and has not ruled out the possibility

of providing longer range weapons systems to counter Russia's recent indiscriminate mass targeting of civilian infrastructure.

We have provided Ukraine with military aid on the understanding that it will be used in accordance with international humanitarian law. We liaise on a daily basis with the Ukrainian Government, and they are clear that equipment provided by the UK is intended for the defence of Ukraine.



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