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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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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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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, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Lord Caine	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office, Whip
Lord Callanan	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton	Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Cameron of Lochiel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office
Viscount Camrose	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Earl of Courtown	Deputy Chief Whip
Lord Davies of Gower	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport
Lord Douglas-Miller	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Lord Evans of Rainow	Whip
Lord Gascoigne	Whip
Lord Harlech	Whip
Lord Johnson of Lainston	Minister of State, Department for Business and Trade
Lord Markham	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Earl of Minto	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Minister of State, Cabinet Office
Lord Offord of Garvel	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business and Trade and Scotland Office
Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Lord Roborough	Whip
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
Lord Stewart of Dirleton	Advocate-General for Scotland
Baroness Swinburne	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Parliamentary Secretary, HM Treasury
Baroness Williams of Trafford	Chief Whip
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions

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Written Statements

Friday, 17 May 2024

Instrument of Accession to CPTPP

[HLWS476]

Lord Johnson of Lainston: My Rt Hon Friend the Minister of State for Trade Policy (Greg Hands MP) has today made the following statement:

Today the UK officially announced the deposit of its instrument of accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). With this significant moment the UK has moved a vital step closer to acceding to one of the largest free trade areas in the world. CPTPP currently accounts for almost 12% of global GDP, and when the UK becomes a full party to the agreement, this will increase to almost 15% of GDP, or over £12 trillion (according to 2023 data).

The UK will be the first country to accede to CPTPP and will be the first European member. Our accession will place us at the heart of the Indo-Pacific, a region that will be crucial both economically and strategically in the coming decades. It will also mean we are well placed to benefit from any future changes to the rules of the agreement, and from any future expansion of the agreement, on which the UK will have a full say.

Through CPTPP, we will have free trade deals with Malaysia and Brunei for the first time – economies with a combined GDP of over £340bn in 2023. We will also see gains over and above a number of the bilateral agreements that we already have with CPTPP Parties, bringing new market access opportunities for UK businesses. Overall, our accession to the agreement could boost UK GDP by around £2 billion each and every year in the long run when compared to projected GDP in 2040, and is expected to benefit every nation and region in the UK.

Our accession will also ensure appropriate protections for UK interests. We have agreed quotas which permanently limit annual additional imports from major producers of the most sensitive agricultural products, and we have ensured that CPTPP preserves the UK's right to regulate to protect human, animal and plant life and health. All food and drink products imported into the UK will still have to meet the respective food safety and biosecurity standards for the UK. Likewise, in acceding to CPTPP we will not be changing any of our high domestic standards of environmental protection or our labour standards. We have also ensured protections for key public services, including the NHS.

The UK has now completed the key processes required to join the CPTPP. As well as the UK's own processes, the other CPTPP Parties need to complete their own respective applicable legal processes for entry into force of the Protocol. CPTPP Parties have different domestic procedures and scrutiny obligations to complete, which vary depending on the country.

The Accession Protocol sets out that the agreement will enter into force for the UK 60 days after all Parties and the UK have each notified the CPTPP Depository. Notification would follow the completion of relevant domestic procedures. After 15 months have passed since signature (which falls in October 2024), the mechanism changes and the Protocol can enter into force 60 days after a minimum of 6 Parties and the UK have each notified. If at least 6 Parties and the UK have already notified within 15 months of signature, entry into force would take place 60 days after the October date. We therefore expect that the UK's accession should enter into force by the end of 2024.

Japan, Singapore and Chile have already completed their respective applicable legal processes for entry into force of the Protocol, and we welcome the support of every Party so that all our businesses and consumers can reap the rewards of the UK joining the deal as soon as possible

Trade and Co-operation Agreement Partnership Council: Third Meeting

[HLWS477]

Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton: The Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) Partnership Council met yesterday, 16 May 2024, in Brussels, with delegates attending in person and by video conference.

The meeting was co-chaired by myself and the European Commission Executive Vice-President, Maroš Šefčovič. Representatives from the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive attended, as did representatives from the Crown Dependencies of the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey. 27 EU Member State representatives also attended. A Joint Statement was agreed and published on GOV.UK.

The Partnership Council discussed implementation of the TCA and cooperation in a wide range of important areas, including, energy and climate, trade and level playing field, health security, fisheries and wider security, and reaffirmed our commitment to fully exploiting the potential the TCA has to offer.

Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee: Thirteenth Meeting

[HLWS478]

Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton: The Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee met on 16 May, in Brussels, with delegates attending in person and by video conference. The meeting was co-chaired by myself and European Commission Executive Vice-President, Maroš Šefčovič. A Joint Statement was agreed and published on GOV.UK.

We welcomed the work on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement to date, in particular on Citizens' Rights and progress on the implementation of the Windsor Framework.

Under Citizens' Rights, we reiterated our commitment to protect the rights of the millions of respective citizens across the UK and the EU. We welcomed the cooperation between the EU and UK and agreed that this work should intensify further with a view to finding solutions to the outstanding issues in this area.

For the Windsor Framework, we took stock of progress on the implementation of the Windsor Framework which has delivered significant benefits for people and businesses in Northern Ireland and we both welcomed the

restoration of the political institutions in Northern Ireland in February 2024. We adopted decisions on the implementation of the Windsor Framework and agreed a corrigendum to Joint Committee Decision No1/2023.

Alongside this we also received an update on the work of the Withdrawal Agreement Specialised Committees since the last meeting on 28 September 2023 and adopted the Withdrawal Agreement Annual Report for the year 2023, pursuant to Article 164(6) of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Written Answers

Friday, 17 May 2024

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have had discussions with international partners on implementing the recommendations for a common approach among relevant political, humanitarian and development actors, contained in the UN Special Coordinator Feridun Sinirlioğlu's independent assessment on Afghanistan, dated 8 November 2023. [[HL4345](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is supportive of the recommendations within the UN Special Coordinator's Independent Assessment, viewing them as the best path for an Afghanistan at peace with itself and the international community. We engage regularly with international partners on this issue, including hosting a meeting in London of G7+ Special Representatives for Afghanistan in January to discuss the report in detail. Senior officials also attend the UN-convened meetings in Doha for Special Representatives as part of this process. Ministers and officials regularly discuss the report's recommendations with international partners, including during the Foreign Secretary's recent trip to Central Asia.

Africa: Renewable Energy

Asked by *Lord Taylor of Warwick*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of British International Investment's increased focus on renewable energy projects in Africa; and what assessment they have made of how this aligns with the UK's international development policy. [[HL4368](#)]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The FCDO's International Development White Paper outlines the Government's ambition for BII to be a leading DFI on climate finance, supporting partner countries in their transition to net zero and resilient economies. This builds on BII's track record of being the UK's principal investment vehicle for delivering climate finance to developing countries, with over \$1 billion of climate finance invested since COP26.

Through the agreement of BII's five-year strategy, Investment Policy, and Policy on Responsible Investment, FCDO ensures alignment of all BII's investments with the UK's international development priorities. In addition, FCDO oversees an evaluation and learning program which recently reviewed BII's infrastructure portfolio. The review found that (i) BII contributes to the provision of cleaner capacity through investments in renewable energy assets, (ii) BII increases resource efficiency

through the lowering of power distribution losses in its transmission and distribution (T&D) portfolio, and (iii) 65 percent of the impact generated by BII's infrastructure investments comes from those located in Africa.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of St Albans*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the World Health Organization report A focus on adolescent substance use in Europe, central Asia and Canada, published on 25 April, what plans they have to address the high levels of child alcohol consumption in England. [[HL4428](#)]

Lord Markham: Guidance from England's Chief Medical Officer for healthcare professionals is clear that an alcohol-free childhood is the healthiest and best option. The Department promotes this through online platforms such as the NHS.UK website, the Talk to FRANK online resource, and the GOV.UK website. Local authorities promote these guidelines as part of their public health duties. As part of the Government's 10-year drug strategy, the Department has an ambition to support 5,000 more children and young people in receiving treatment than at the start of the strategy in March 2022.

The Department for Education's statutory guidance, *Relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education*, became mandatory in September 2020. Through this, education on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco became compulsory at state-funded primary and secondary schools, teaching children and young people how to manage influences and pressure, and keep themselves healthy and safe. To deter individuals selling alcohol to a person aged under 18 years old, the maximum fine for the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children was increased from £10,000 to £20,000, under section 147A(8) of the 2003 Licensing Act.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Asked by *The Marquess of Lothian*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether asylum seekers arriving in the UK unlawfully from the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be subject to removal to the Republic of Rwanda, under the provisions of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. [[HL4341](#)]

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Anyone in the UK illegally, including those who arrived through illegal, dangerous, and unnecessary means, may be in scope for removal to Rwanda.

Only those who face a real and imminent risk of serious and irreversible harm based on their individual circumstances will be able to appeal decisions in the UK.

Avian Influenza

Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle**

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk posed by avian flu, given its spread through the US cattle herd and reports that many infected cattle are asymptomatic; what monitoring is being carried out on UK cattle and other farm animals, wild mammals, and the humans that come into contact with them; and what additional biosecurity measures they are planning or developing. [HL4376]

Lord Douglas-Miller: The Government is in close contact with counterparts in the United States on the incidents of influenza of avian origin in cattle in the USA. We know that the strain of virus (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) strain B3.13) involved has not been detected in the UK.

Defra is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Food Standards Agency, the Cabinet Office and with international partners on risk assessments to consider the routes of incursion, animal to animal spread and animal to human spill-over and to review our well-tested surveillance mechanisms and preparedness activities in light of this emerging situation.

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has assessed the risk to Great Britain of this outbreak in the USA of Influenza A (H5N1) of avian origin in livestock to our own livestock as very low (event is very rare but cannot be excluded). The assessment has been published on gov.uk [Avian influenza in cattle in USA \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/publishing/service/gov.uk) (see attached). The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have assessed the risk to UK consumers from HPAI strain B3.13 in imported milk, dairy products, colostrum and colostrum-based products originating from US dairy cattle as very low with medium uncertainty ([Rapid Risk Assessment: Risk to UK consumers from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) H5N1 B3.13 in US dairy products | Food Standards Agency](#)) (see attached).

In response to the unprecedented global outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild and kept birds, the UK's avian influenza national reference laboratory at the Animal and Plant Health Agency Weybridge laboratory has increased its surveillance in both wild birds and wild mammals and genome analysis of the virus itself while keeping a close eye on its spread in global populations of wildlife. In addition, we have published an 'Influenza A (H5N1) infection in mammals: suspect case definition and diagnostic testing criteria' on gov.uk to support veterinary professionals and others in knowing when to report suspicion. The UK case definition for influenza of avian origin in mammals has been updated and now includes a case definition for ungulates including dairy cattle, this in response the emerging situation in cattle in the USA and will be kept under regular review as further information becomes available.

We are monitoring the situation closely but at this time have no reason to suspect the virus is circulating in our cattle, nor is this strain of the virus circulating in Europe. We have had no recent cases of avian influenza in kept birds, or findings of influenza of avian origin in kept or wild mammals, and the risk level from wild birds is low. We have discussed the need for surveillance in wildlife, domestic animals and humans with DHSC and UKHSA and are considering the case for additional surveillance for influenza of avian origin in cattle and how best such animal health surveillance could be undertaken.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Risk Assessment [PQ HL4376 attachment - Rapid Risk Assessment_Risk.pdf]

avian influenza in cattle [PQ HL4376 attachment - avian-influenza-H5N1-in-cattle-in-USA.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-07/HL4376>

Childcare

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Llanfaes**

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to make provision in England which is similar to the Childcare Offer for Wales, and whether they have had discussions with the Welsh Government in that regard. [HL4361]

Baroness Barran: Through the English government's transformative childcare reforms, the department will expect to be spending in excess of £8 billion every year on free hours and early education, helping working families with their childcare costs. This represents the single biggest investment in childcare in England ever. The childcare expansion is being rolled out in phases, with over 210,000 children now benefitting since the launch of the first phase in April. The next stage in September 2024 will extend this to children aged from 9 months. By September 2025, eligible working parents will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare from the term after their child turns 9-months-old to when they start school.

As such, there are currently no plans to introduce the Welsh style childcare provision in England. Education and the entitlement to free childcare for pre-school children in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly. We engage routinely with the Welsh government and other devolved administrations at ministerial and official levels to learn from each other to improve early years outcomes across the UK.

Civil Servants: Wales

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Llanfaes**

To ask His Majesty's Government what impact the planned reduction in civil service personnel will have on relevant employees based in Wales. [HL4358]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Prime Minister's announcement of longer-term reductions in Civil Service numbers is a reiteration of the policy announced by the Chancellor in October 2023. The longer-term reductions will build on the shorter-term headcount cap put in place through to March 2025. The detail of how individual organisations will be affected by the return to pre-pandemic numbers will form a key part of the next comprehensive spending review.

Coastal Erosion

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Newcastle

To ask His Majesty's Government how heritage significance is taken into account when calculating the value of (1) a coastal erosion protection project, and (2) a grant received through grant-in-aid funding for such a project. [HL4421]

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Newcastle

To ask His Majesty's Government what funding they have made available to protect churchyards from coastal erosion where (1) the church is of historical significance, or (2) family members of those recently buried in the churchyard reside in the local community. [HL4472]

Lord Douglas-Miller: The Government is investing £5.6 billion between 2021 and 2027 to better protect communities across England from flooding and coastal erosion. This investment includes a record £5.2 billion capital investment programme, as well as the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme (FCIP).

Schemes are valued and prioritised using the Government's Partnership Funding policy, with the amount of funding a scheme can attract dependent on the damages it will avoid and the benefits it will deliver. The impact on heritage assets and churchyards are included as part of this calculation.

In areas where a heritage asset is assessed to be invaluable, only schemes protecting the asset can be shortlisted.

The Third National Adaptation Programme details how Government and its agencies plan to protect cultural heritage from a changing climate, including implications for our coastal heritage due to flooding and coastal erosion.

Guidance on managing the impacts of coastal erosion on heritage features can be found on Historic England's website, alongside details of available grants for heritage.

Coastal Erosion: Northumberland

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Newcastle

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of heritage assets and community spaces at risk of coastal erosion in the Northumberland

region and what steps will they take to protect those at risk. [HL4419]

Lord Douglas-Miller: The coastal erosion risk, and long term policy for management of the Northumberland Coast is outlined in the Scottish Border to River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan 2009 (SMP): [North East Coastal Observatory](#) (see attached). The SMP considers risks associated with coastal processes and outlines management policies to reduce risks to people and the developed, historic, and natural environment.

As part of the Scottish Border to River Tyne SMP (2009), a comprehensive assessment was undertaken to understand the characteristics of the natural and built environment of the Northumberland Coast. This assessment included evaluating the effects of coastal erosion on heritage, cultural heritage, and the historic environment (including churches and graveyards) to help ensure all relevant considerations were made when developing policies to manage coastal erosion.

As the relevant Coastal Protection Authority (CPA) in this location, Northumberland County Council (NCC) is eligible to bid for capital FCRM Grant in Aid for projects that mitigate the effects of coastal erosion. There are around 18 coastal projects with funding on the current 6-year capital programme within the Newcastle Diocese. These schemes have been allocated over £3.7million of FCRM Grant in Aid funding. Schemes can only progress after business cases for each scheme are produced and approved.

As part of the recent Natural Flood Management Announcements ([40 projects to benefit from £25 million funding for natural flood management - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)) (see attached) a scheme was approved within the Northumberland Coast, at Alnmouth. NCC's project will maintain and enhance existing saltmarsh and dune systems in the Aln Estuary.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

National Flood management announcements [PQ HL4419 - Natural Flood Management Announcements.pdf]

SMP 2009 [PQ HL4419 - SMP 2009-compressed.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-07/HL4419>

Company Investigations: Disclosure of Information

Asked by Lord Tyrie

To ask His Majesty's Government in each of the past three years how many times (1) OFCOM, (2) OFGEM, (3) the Competition and Markets Authority, and (4) the Financial Reporting Council, have exercised the power to disclose the identity of persons under investigation. [HL4370]

Lord Johnson of Lainston: The subject of OFCOM's investigations are services rather than individual persons.

The details of these investigations are published on OFCOM's website.

OFGEM also publishes details of its investigations on its website.

The Competition and Markets Authority exercised the power to identify persons under investigation in seven cases in 2021; ten cases in 2022; and in five cases in 2023. In some of these cases multiple parties have been identified.

The Financial Reporting Council has not exercised the power in any of the past three years.

Asked by Lord Tyrie

To ask His Majesty's Government what evidence they have of the power to disclose the identity of persons under investigation being exercised by UK regulators where the disclosure has not been in the public interest. [HL4371]

Lord Johnson of Lainston: The Department for Business and Trade does not hold centrally evidence on whether regulators have disclosed identities of a person under investigation when it has not been in the public interest.

Conflict Resolution: Women

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of defence investment into the women, peace and security agenda, following the commitments laid out in the UK women, peace and security national action plan 2023 to 2027. [HL4328]

The Earl of Minto: The UK's fifth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security recognises the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and includes tangible actions across Government to promote their vital role in conflict prevention through to resolution.

The delivery of the WPS agenda is a cross government effort, with personnel across five government departments and two devolved administrations delivering on specific commitments. One year since the WPS NAP's publication, 75% of the 117 commitments are in progress. As a joint FCDO-MOD strategy, both Departments are committed to driving forward NAP implementation, including getting 100% of commitments in progress over the next year.

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask His Majesty's Government whether there is a defence budget dedicated to women, peace and security, and human security, work. [HL4330]

The Earl of Minto: In Defence, work on Human Security and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) is primarily delivered as a mainstreamed and integrated component of existing work, consequently it does not

have a dedicated budget line. This approach helps to ensure that Human Security and WPS are not treated as standalone concerns and siloed from core Defence activity and priorities.

When appropriate, budget is made available for specific Human Security and WPS requirements. This can be seen in the delivery of the Human Security in Military Operational Planning course that is delivered at the Defence Academy or the delivery of the Gender Barriers Study to support UK's ability to meet UN gender parity targets during peacekeeping deployments.

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund and UK Integrated Security Fund

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask His Majesty's Government to what extent funds from the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund and the Integrated Security Fund are being invested into defence work related to human security. [HL4331]

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Integrated Security Fund (ISF) aims to integrate gender and human security concerns throughout all our programming. This includes cooperation with defence actors and support for women, girls, and other marginalised groups to engage with defence and security providers. The Fund supports activities which can be read about in more detail in the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Annual Reports, including our contribution to advancing the UK's commitments to Women, Peace and Security under the UK National Action Plan (NAP).

Cyprus

Asked by Baroness Mobarik

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comments made in 2004 by the then Prime Minister on the need to "end the isolation of northern Cyprus"; and what progress they have made towards lifting sanctions on trade and travel to that region. [HL4348]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: In accordance with the rest of the international community, with the sole exception of Turkey, the UK does not recognise the self-declared "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" as an independent state. Several UN Security Council Resolutions also limit links between UK and the north of Cyprus. Within these constraints we support measures to reduce the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and regularly engage the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce on this issue. We continue to support a just and lasting Cyprus Settlement as the best means of resolving the difficulties caused by the division of the island.

Cyprus and Somaliland: Merchant Shipping

Asked by **Baroness Mobarik**

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any information on the number of UK merchant ships that docked at (1) Gazimağusa, and (2) Berbera, seaports in each year since 2010; and why their policies towards both unrecognised countries differ in terms of their international investment. [HL4347]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: No UK flagged vessels have docked at Famagusta (Gazimağusa) since 2018. One vessel docked five times at Berbera over the same period. We do not hold data before 2018. The situations in the north of Cyprus and Somaliland are different and require different approaches. The UK supports measures to promote economic development in both, whilst respecting UN Security Council Resolutions that limit links between the UK and the north of Cyprus.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure transparency and cost-effectiveness in the procurement of defence equipment, given the increasing complexity and expense of modern military hardware. [HL4266]

The Earl of Minto: I refer the noble Lord to the reply I gave him on 3 April 2024 in response to Question number HL3443.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Defence Equipment: Procurement [HL3443.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-01/HL4266>

Defence: Expenditure

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask His Majesty's Government what measures are being taken to ensure that the UK's defence spending aligns with the current strategic threat landscape, particularly in the light of emerging hybrid and cyber warfare tactics observed in recent international conflicts. [HL4264]

The Earl of Minto: Since the latest Defence Command Paper was published the security landscape has continued to deteriorate and hybrid threats persist. The volatile, complex and ambiguous security environment demands a fully integrated approach to deterrence and our defence - including across domains, across the spectrum of competition, across Government, and with allies and partners - exploiting all the levers of state power.

To support this, the Prime Minister has committed to defence spending reaching 2.5% of GDP in 2030.

Defence is establishing a prioritisation process to work through future capability and investment choices which will conclude at the next Spending Review. In the immediate term, this increased investment will be focused in part on accelerating investment in new technology for defence and ensuring our Armed Forces are benefitting from the latest technologies.

Defence: Technology

Asked by **Lord Browne of Belmont**

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the challenges of integrating advanced technologies into the UK's defence capabilities. [HL4265]

The Earl of Minto: The Integrated Review Refresh, Defence Command Paper Refresh, and recent Defending Britain paper have all outlined changes the MOD is making to promote greater pull-through of integrating advanced technologies into deployable capabilities. The Integration Design Authority (IDA) will traffic-light proposals for new equipment (including advanced technologies), introduce new checks and balances to avoid previous procurement challenges, speed up frontline delivery and bring down costs.

The Integrated Procurement Model (IPM) announced in February 2024 is a fundamental shift in the way the MOD acquires defence capability. Taken together, these changes will drive increased pace in the delivery of military capability to UK Armed Forces and promote effective integration of technology into deployable capability so that we stay ahead of our adversaries.

Department for Work and Pensions: Welsh Language

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Llanfaes**

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have closed the Welsh language provision of the Department for Work and Pensions bereavement service; and, if so, when and why. [HL4484]

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Welsh language provision of DWP's Bereavement Service has not been closed down.

The Bereavement Service includes:

- Making an application for a Bereavement Support Payment
- Reporting a death
- Applying for Funeral Expenses

Bereavement teams within Regional Pension Centres (RPCs) provide this service. A Welsh team in Swansea Pension Centre supports the Welsh language service. This can be accessed by calling 0800 731 0453.

Those reporting a death, who have a Tell Us Once Reference Number, provided by the Registrar, can report a death on-line through the Tell Us Once service, which is also available in Welsh [Beth i'w wneud ar ôl i rywun

farw: [Dywedwch Wrthym Unwaith -GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)] or by calling 0800 085 7308 and selecting option 1 to speak to someone in Welsh. For those without a Tell Us Once Reference Number, the death can be reported by calling the Welsh Bereavement Service helpline on 0800 731 0453.

The Bereavement Support Payment can also be claimed online in Welsh [[Taliad Cymorth Profedigaeth: Sut i wneud cais - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)].

Information relating to Bereavement can be found on GOV.UK in both Welsh and English.

Fats

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask His Majesty's Government what current guidance they have issued about the maximum recommended dietary intake of (1) saturated, and (2) unsaturated, fat per day; and on the basis of what scientific evidence they made such a recommendation. [HL4521]

Lord Markham: The Government encourages everyone to have a healthy balanced diet in line with the United Kingdom's healthy eating model, The Eatwell Guide, which shows that foods high in saturated fat, salt, or sugar should be eaten less often, or in small amounts. The Government's dietary guidelines are based on recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) and its predecessor, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Nutrition Policy (COMA), and based on comprehensive assessments of the evidence.

In its 1994 report, Nutritional aspects of cardiovascular disease, the COMA recommended a reduction in the average contribution of total fat to dietary energy in the population to approximately 35%, and that trans fats should provide no more than approximately 2% of dietary energy. In relation to unsaturated fatty acids, the COMA concluded that: monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) had no specific recommendation; for n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), there should be no further increase in average intakes, and the proportion of the population consuming in excess of about 10% energy should not increase; linolenic acid provided at least 1% of total energy; and alpha linolenic acid provided at least 0.2% total energy. The report also included recommendations on saturated fats, which were updated by the SACN in 2019.

A joint SACN and Committee on Toxicity report, Advice on fish consumption: benefits and risks published in 2004, endorsed the recommendation that the population, including pregnant women, should eat at least two portions of fish per week, one of which should be oily. Two portions of fish per week, one white and one oily, contains approximately 0.45 grams per day of long chain n-3 PUFA. This recommendation represented an increase in the population's average consumption of long

chain n-3 PUFA, from approximately 0.2 grams to approximately 0.45 grams per day.

The SACN's 2019 report on saturated fats and health recommended: the dietary reference value for saturated fats remains unchanged, and the population's average contribution of saturated fatty acids to total dietary energy be reduced to no more than approximately 10%, which also applies to adults and children aged five years and older; and that saturated fats are substituted with unsaturated fats, as it was noted that more evidence is available supporting substitution with PUFA than substitution with MUFA.

Gratuities: Wales

Asked by Baroness Smith of Llanfaes

To ask His Majesty's Government how many workers across the hospitality, leisure and services sectors in Wales will be affected by the Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act 2023; and how much additional money they estimate workers in Wales will take home. [HL4360]

Lord Johnson of Lainston: The Government published an impact assessment for the Employment (Allocation of Tips) Act 2023: <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3197/publications>. The impact assessment estimates that around 2 million workers in the hospitality, leisure and services sectors across the UK will benefit by having their tips protected.

Of those, around 1 million workers are estimated to benefit from an increase in gross pay of around £200 per year on average. The Government has not published regional breakdowns, but the number of workers in tipping industries in Wales can be obtained through the Nomis website at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>.

Illegal Migration Act 2023 and Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask His Majesty's Government when they expect to be able to make a full value for money assessment of (1) the Illegal Migration Act 2023, and (2) the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024; and when they expect to be able to assess with certainty the level of deterrent effect of this legislation. [HL4340]

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Both the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Safety of Rwanda Act 2024 aim to put a stop to illegal migration into the UK by removing the incentive to make dangerous small boat crossings.

The Home Office has published its Economic Impact Assessment for the Illegal Migration Act <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/impact-assessments-covering-migration-policy> and Safety of Rwanda Act [Safety of Rwanda \(Asylum and Immigration\) Bill: impact assessments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/impact-assessments-covering-migration-policy).

Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme

Asked by **Baroness Hoey**

To ask His Majesty's Government, pursuant to regulation 13 of the Windsor Framework (Retail Movement Scheme) Regulations 2023 on retail goods checks between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, how many checks were conducted in (1) February, (2) March, and (3) April. [HL4410]

Lord Douglas-Miller: In line with the commitments we have made, as we move to our new UK internal market system, we will ensure that the only checks when goods move within the UK internal market system are those conducted by UK authorities as part of a risk-based or intelligence-led approach to tackle criminality, abuse of the scheme, smuggling and disease risks. But in order not to undermine that approach, as is the case across the UK we do not disclose the specific number or nature of interventions made by UK authorities.

Obesity: Children

Asked by **Baroness Goudie**

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to undertake a review into levels of childhood obesity and the role that the promotion of meals, snacks and drinks in early years settings can play in combatting this trend. [HL4398]

Lord Markham: The Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet, for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to five years old. The EYFS requires that where children are provided with meals, snacks, and drinks, they must be healthy, balanced, and nutritious. The EYFS also refers to example menus and guidance, which support parents, carers, and anyone working with children, to provide healthy food options. The Department for Education has also very recently published a range of tools and advice to support childminders, nursery leaders, and pre-school practitioners to improve the food offered in early years settings on the Help for early years providers platform.

Obesity: Health Services

Asked by **Lord McColl of Dulwich**

To ask His Majesty's Government what is the total cost of treating patients who are obese and overweight; and what are the associated costs of treating (1) type 2 diabetes, (2) cardiovascular disease, (3) cerebrovascular disease, (4) musculoskeletal diseases including joint replacers, (5) cancer, and (6) dementia. [HL4164]

Lord Markham: The department has reviewed and uses cost estimates published by Frontier Economics in 2022.

A study by Frontier Economics estimated that in 2021 obesity related ill-health cost the National Health Service

£6.5 billion annually. This estimate includes costs associated with the following obesity related diseases: colorectal cancer; oesophageal cancer; kidney cancer; ovarian cancer; pancreatic cancer; coronary heart disease; stroke; type 2 diabetes; hypertension; knee osteoarthritis; endometrial cancer, and breast cancer.

The disease costs associated with obesity are calculated from the total annual costs per case, as shown in the following table:

Disease	Cost per case per year (2021)
(1) Type 2 diabetes	£ 827.33
(2) Cardiovascular disease - Coronary heart disease (CHD)	£ 1,557.25
(2) Cardiovascular disease - Stroke	£ 247.55
(2) Risk of Cardiovascular disease - Hypertension	£ 453.91
(4) Musculoskeletal disease - Knee Osteoarthritis	£ 27,798.40
(5) Cancer - Colorectal cancer	£ 520.13
(5) Cancer - Oesophageal cancer	£ 545.06
(5) Cancer - Kidney cancer	£ 1,662.88
(5) Cancer - Ovarian cancer	£ 14,990.93
(5) Cancer - Pancreatic cancer	£ 7,447.27
(5) Cancer - Endometrial cancer	£ 520.13
(5) Cancer - Breast cancer	£ 545.06

The annual costs per case includes direct health-care costs including hospital care (both inpatient and outpatient), primary care, and medication, and they are not exclusively related to obesity associated cases. Indirect and social care costs are not included, which means the exclusion of these costs will probably underestimate total costs of disease events overall.

Occupied Territories: War Crimes

Asked by **The Marquess of Lothian**

To ask His Majesty's Government what information they have on the progress of the International Criminal Court's investigation into the Situation in the State of Palestine, announced by the Prosecutor on 3 March 2021 and covering crimes alleged to have been committed since 13 June 2014. [HL4344]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our position on the ICC's investigation into the situation in the OPTs has not changed.

The UK is a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and we fully respect the independence of the Court.

As a State Party to the Geneva Conventions, 1949, the Israeli Government is obliged to take action against Israeli nationals accused of grave breaches of International

Humanitarian Law. It is for the Israeli domestic judicial system to try or extradite those accused of grave breaches.

We continue to call for International Humanitarian Law to be respected and civilians to be protected. It is vital that all parties ensure that their actions are proportionate, necessary and minimise harm to civilians.

Ozanne Foundation

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government how much funding has been disbursed to the Ozanne Foundation via the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office or predecessor departments since 2019; on what evidential basis was that funding released; and what conditions, if any, were attached to that funding. [HL4333]

Lord Benyon: LGBT rights are human rights and the UK is committed to championing these rights internationally, supporting those who defend them. The Ozanne Foundation works with religious organisations around the world to eliminate discrimination based on sexuality or gender to embrace and celebrate the equality and diversity of all. Since 2019, the FCDO and predecessor departments have provided the Ozanne Foundation with £207,500, this includes £20,000 for 2023-24. The funding, which was allocated to address the issue of violence and discrimination of LGBT people, has primarily been used for the Global Interfaith Commission on LGBT lives which calls for an end to violence and criminalisation against LGBT people. It was announced by the Cabinet Office Minister on 13 May that all future contracts for external diversity spending will be signed off by ministers.

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to fund the Ozanne Foundation via the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 2024–28, and for what purpose. [HL4334]

Lord Benyon: The LGBT rights programme was publicly announced in November 2023. This programme has been set up to fund a range of partner organisations and is designed to improve the lives of millions of LGBT people around the world by reducing violence and discrimination, improving economic and social inclusion and legislative reform. The Ozanne Foundation works with religious organisations around the world to eliminate discrimination based on sexuality or gender to embrace and celebrate the equality and diversity of all. The Ozanne Foundation submitted a proposal to develop a residential course for senior religious leaders from around the world. The proposal was successful and due diligence of the lead programme partner, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, is currently ongoing. It was announced by the Cabinet Office Minister on 13 May that all future contracts for external diversity spending will be signed off by ministers.

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to measure value for money in respect of funding disbursed or provisionally allocated to the Ozanne Foundation for (1) 2023–24, and (2) 2024–28. [HL4335]

Lord Benyon: The FCDO's LGBT rights programme aims to transform the lives of millions of LGBT people around the world by reducing violence and discrimination, improving economic and social inclusion and legislative reform. All proposals to the programme are required to set out how they will deliver and measure value for money. Successful partners are required to submit reports for the monitoring and evaluation process. These reports include a results framework or log frame to track progress against targets of the project and quarterly and annual progress reports, which should highlight how they have achieved value for money.

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government what (1) due diligence, and (2) procurement, processes were undertaken by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office prior to awarding the Ozanne Foundation £805,000 of project funding for the period 2024–28. [HL4336]

Lord Benyon: The FCDO's LGBT rights programme aims to transform the lives of millions of LGBT people around the world by reducing violence and discrimination, improving economic and social inclusion and legislative reform. Procurement for the first round of funding took place through a call for proposals which went out in June 2023. Following a due diligence process the Ozanne Foundation received £20,000 in 2023/24 to initiate a project to develop a residential course for senior religious leaders from around the world. The final workplan and budget for April 2024 onwards will be agreed after a satisfactory due diligence assessment of the lead programme partner, Regent's Park College, University of Oxford. It was announced by the Cabinet Office Minister on 13 May that all future contracts for external diversity spending will be signed off by ministers.

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Ozanne Foundation to ensure that that organisation has appropriate financial oversight and management processes in place to manage projects involving large sums of public money received by grant in the 2023–24 financial year. [HL4337]

Lord Benyon: The FCDO's LGBT rights programme aims to transform the lives of millions of LGBT people around the world by reducing violence and discrimination, improving economic and social inclusion and legislative reform. Following a standard due diligence process the Ozanne Foundation received £20,000 in

2023/24 to initiate a project to develop a residential course for senior religious leaders from around the world. It was announced by the Cabinet Office Minister on 13 May that all future contracts for external diversity spending will be signed off by ministers.

Palestinians: Refugees

*Asked by **Baroness Janke***

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk to Palestinian refugees caused by efforts to abolish UNRWA. [HL4290]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We recognise the essential and pivotal role that UNRWA plays in providing health and education services and humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees. The United Nation's General Assembly voted on 12 December 2022 to extend UNRWA's mandate until 30 June 2026.

Prisoners: Parental Responsibility

*Asked by **Lord Farmer***

To ask His Majesty's Government what proportion of men in prison have access to legal advice on the issue of parental rights and responsibilities. [HL4325]

Lord Bellamy: Prisoners are entitled to civil legal aid if their legal matter is in scope, and they pass both a merits and a means test. The merits test considers the case's likelihood of success and benefit to the client.

Legal aid is available in certain family matters, such as public family law cases which fall under the Children Act 1989. These types of cases include proceedings relating to whether a child should be taken into care or who should have parental responsibility.

In private family proceedings, legal aid is available for domestic abuse victims and where the child is at risk of abuse, subject to providing the required evidence and meeting the means and merits tests.

However, the National Security Act 2023 introduced a restriction on access to civil legal aid for convicted terrorists, which narrowed the range of circumstances in which individuals convicted of specified terrorism offences can receive civil legal aid services, though these provisions have not yet commenced.

It is not possible to estimate how many prisoners have a family law-related issue that is in scope of legal aid, and/or are eligible for legally aided advice, as doing so would require each prisoner undertaking a means test and merits test of their case, as well as an examination of their issue to understand whether it is in scope.

Prison staff are required to assist prisoners who wish to access legal advice by providing lists of legal advisers, supplying appropriate forms, and assisting prisoners to complete them where requested due to language or literacy difficulties.

Secure Accommodation: Girls

*Asked by **Lord Blencathra***

To ask His Majesty's Government, what assessment they have made of the competence of the Youth Justice Board given that girls are being accommodated in male prisons, despite specific care needs illustrated by the official statistics 'Safety in the Children and Young People Secure Estate: Update to December 2023', published on 25 April, which stated that the rate of self-harm among girls on the secure estate is 66 times higher than for boys. [HL4321]

Lord Bellamy: Responsibility for the management of the youth secure estate in England and Wales was transferred from the Youth Justice Board to the Youth Custody Service, a distinct arm of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), in 2017.

There are various mechanisms to monitor the performance of the Youth Justice System, including youth custody. The Minister of State for Prisons, Parole and Probation chairs the Youth Justice Quarterly Performance Board (YJQPB), which provides strategic oversight on how effectively the Youth Justice System is performing. The Board uses key metrics and other intelligence across the entirety of the system to identify challenges and drive action to address these. Senior representatives across the Youth Justice System, including the Youth Custody Service, Youth Justice Board and other stakeholders within Government and the public sector collaborate to monitor the key metrics and drive change.

In addition, the Minister monitors specific custody-related performance updates through regular meetings with senior managers from Youth Custody Service.

Girls in the youth estate may be accommodated in mixed-gender settings, including within the Secure Children's Home sector, Oakhill Training Centre and at HMYOI Wetherby. Placement decisions are made according to individual need, within the placement options available. Within each sector, each child has his or her own room - boys and girls do not mix. However, as they may do while at school within the community, boys and girls do mix in education and association areas- and are supervised by staff at all times.

Any girl in the youth estate who is at risk of self-harm will be supported through the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process, ensuring she has a dedicated case manager; and girls with the most complex needs will receive additional monitoring and more intensive case management.

Soil

*Asked by **Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle***

To ask His Majesty's Government when soil monitoring data from Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment programme will become available. [HL4375]

Lord Benyon: The Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment is a new environmental monitoring programme, assessing the state and condition of ecosystems in England and their natural capital. The field data, including soils data, is being collected on a five-year cycle that runs from 2023/24 to 2027/28. Final statistics and data will be published after 2027/28 when 100% of the data has been collected and there are outline plans to publish interim statistics, mid cycle, once 50% of the field data has been collected.

Suicide

Asked by Lord Farmer

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any more recent statistics on suicide other than the Office of National Statistics data for 2022, published on 19 December 2023. [HL4326]

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

Please see the letter attached from the National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority.

The Lord Farmer

House of Lords

London

SW1A 0AA

8 May 2024

Dear Lord Farmer,

As National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, I am responding to your Parliamentary Question of 3 May 2024, asking whether His Majesty's Government have any more recent statistics on suicide other than the Office of National Statistics data for 2022, published on 19 December 2023. (HL4326)

In addition to our annual suicide statistics, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) also publish provisional quarterly suicide statistics for England. The latest statistics provide provisional suicide registrations for 2023. These statistics are derived from the information provided when deaths are certified and registered. Finalised 2023 suicide registrations for England and Wales will be published later in 2024. This will be forwarded to you once released.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities also publish near to real-time suspected suicide surveillance (nRTSSS) data for England. This data has been collected from Police Forces in England and provides an early indication of changes in suicide trends. The latest data was published on 25th April 2024 and covers November 2022 to January 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

The Answer includes the following attached material:

UKSA Letter

[080524_Sir_Ian_Diamond_UKSA_Lord_Farmer_HL4326 (2).pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-02/HL4326>

Sure Start Programme

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Leicester

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 29 April (HL3846), what plans they have to (1) roll out Family Hubs to the remaining 242 local authorities, and (2) sustain the funding for the Family Hubs programme beyond 2025. [HL4339]

Baroness Barran: The department is currently investing around £300 million in 75 local authorities, half of all upper tier local authorities in England, to transform to a Family Hub model. Funding has been targeted to the most deprived local authorities, ensuring families get the support they need.

The department has also invested in a £12 million transformation fund to open Family Hubs in 13 additional local authorities in England.

All 88 local authorities now have opened at least one Family Hub, with over 400 government-funded Family Hub sites now open across the country.

Further funding for the current programmes is dependent on future fiscal events. It was confirmed at Spring Budget that the next spending review will come after a General Election, the timing of which is still to be determined.

The government would like to see Family Hubs across the country, but it is crucial that the department now focuses on delivering well in these local authorities and building the evidence base.

Television Licences: Fees and Charges

Asked by Lord Truscott

To ask His Majesty's Government, in the light of the trend of a decline in the number of broadcast television viewers, what assessment they have made of the future of the licence fee. [HL4246]

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: His Majesty's Government believes that there are challenges regarding the sustainability of the current licence fee funding model, and is therefore conducting a review of it.

As the terms of reference for that review note, the broadcasting sector is evolving rapidly, and members of the public have much more choice about how, when, and where they access content. The review will look at the sustainability of the BBC's current funding model, and assess how alternative models could help secure the corporation's long-term sustainability amid an evolving media landscape, increased competition, and changing

audience behaviour, while reducing the burden on licence fee-payers.

Temporary Accommodation: Children

Asked by The Marquess of Lothian

To ask His Majesty's Government how many children are currently homeless in temporary accommodation in England and Wales, and how these figures compare to 2010; what is the average length of time that homeless children spend in temporary accommodation; and what action they are taking in this regard. [HL4342]

Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The statutory homelessness statistics for England publish quarterly data from local authorities containing information on families in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter. Data can be found at Statutory homelessness in England: October to December 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Details of the length of time families with children are housed in temporary accommodation are published annually and can be found at [Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2022-23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). In terms of the action the government is taking, I refer the Noble Lord to the response provided to UIN 14761 on 26 February 2024.

Housing is devolved and quarterly statistics for Wales can be found on the Welsh Government's website.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Statutory homelessness in England [HL4342 - Statutory homelessness in England_ October to December 2023 - GOV.UK.pdf]

UIN 14761 [14761 Written questions and answers.pdf]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-02/HL4342>

Undocumented Migrants: Republic of Ireland

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of the Republic of Ireland on potential returns from that country of irregular migrants to (1) the United Kingdom, and (2) other European Union states. [HL4338]

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: We do not have a returns agreement with the EU or other EU Member States.

Universities: Nuclear Reactors

Asked by Lord Wigley

To ask His Majesty's Government how many universities in England have small nuclear reactors that are being used to develop or apply radiotherapy medical treatment. [HL4554]

Lord Callanan: There are currently no universities in England that have small nuclear fission reactors that are being used to develop or apply radiotherapy medical treatment.

It is critical that the UK continues to maintain access to the nuclear medicines it needs. In the 2024 Civil Nuclear Roadmap, the government committed to considering a research reactor and an accelerator in the next Spending Review to address the UK's supply needs.

No decisions have yet been taken by the government to select one or more technology options.

UNRWA

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask His Majesty's Government what reassurances they have sought from the government of Israel regarding their cooperation with the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services investigation into the allegations made against UNRWA. [HL4288]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in the events that took place on 7 October in Israel are appalling, which is why we took decisive action to pause future funding to the organisation.

The Prime Minister has been clear that the UK will set out its position on future funding to UNRWA following careful consideration of Catherine Colonna's final report, UNRWA's response and the ongoing UN Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) investigation into these allegations.

We continue to urge Israel and all parties with relevant information to cooperate fully with the OIOS investigation.

UNRWA: Finance

Asked by Baroness Janke

To ask His Majesty's Government on the basis of what evidence they have continued to suspend funding to UNRWA despite other allies, including Germany, having restored funding to the agency. [HL4289]

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in the events that took place on 7 October in Israel are appalling, which is why we took decisive action to pause future funding to the organisation.

The Prime Minister has been clear that the UK will set out its position on future funding to UNRWA following careful consideration of Catherine Colonna's final report, UNRWA's response and the ongoing UN Office for Internal Oversight Services investigation into these allegations.

Veterans: Health Services

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to streamline the transition of medical care from

military services to the NHS for service leavers. [HL4268]

The Earl of Minto: I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave him on 3 April 2024 to Question HL3445.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Veterans: Health Services [HL34445.docx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-05-01/HL4268>

Veterans: Mental Health Services and Rehabilitation

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask His Majesty's Government what initiatives are currently in place to ensure military veterans receive timely access to (1) physical rehabilitation, and (2) mental health, services, particularly those suffering post-traumatic stress disorder after combat. [HL4267]

The Earl of Minto: The Defence Medical Services (DMS) provides healthcare to Serving Armed Forces Personnel, to ensure that they are medically fit, mentally and physically, to undertake their duties. To overcome injuries, comprehensive rehabilitation services are provided to Service Personnel, through a network of Primary Care Rehabilitation Facilities, Regional Rehabilitation Units and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall.

All Service Personnel have access to mental health support throughout their career, including medical and non-medical services. The Trauma Risk Management process (TRiM) is a Tri-Service endorsed strategy for providing support to Armed Forces Personnel involved in a traumatic event, whether on Operations or in any other circumstance. For Armed Forces Personnel requiring mental healthcare, including for post-traumatic stress disorder, the DMS provides a responsive, flexible, accessible, and comprehensive treatment service.

The MOD is not responsible for the provision of healthcare, including mental healthcare, for veterans in the UK. Where personnel leaving the Armed Forces have an enduring need for medical care, the DMS works in partnership with the NHS in England and the Devolved Administrations. Personnel who have been assessed and diagnosed with a mental health need are able to access MOD Departments of Community Mental Health for up to six months after discharge to provide continuity of care during the transition period until appropriate handover to other services can be completed as required.

The Defence Recovery Capability is a MOD-owned capability designed to deliver programmed, command-led and coordinated support to wounded, injured and sick Serving Personnel. Each person who comes under the Defence Recovery Capability will get a tailored Individual Recovery Plan which enables them to focus on either their return to duty or transition to civilian life.

The Veterans Welfare Service and Defence Transition Service deliver additional support to Service Leavers and their families who are most likely to face challenges as they leave the Armed Forces, including facilitating access to NHS services.

Veterans: Rehabilitation

Asked by Lord Browne of Belmont

To ask His Majesty's Government what support is available for military veterans transitioning back into civilian life. [HL4269]

The Earl of Minto: The vast majority of Service personnel successfully transition to civilian life with very few challenges. The Defence Holistic Transition Policy (JSP100) was launched in 2019 and sets out how the Ministry of Defence supports Service leavers to assist in a successful transition.

All Service leavers are entitled to support from the Career Transition Partnership (CTP). This has recently been changed to be an opt-out service, increasing attendance of service leavers.

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS), Defence Transition Services (DTS) and the Integrated Personal Commissioning for Veterans (IPC4V) work together to deliver holistic transition and welfare support to the Armed Forces community. All three services provide information, guidance and support. They facilitate access to entitlements and services provided by MOD, OGDs, local authorities and the charity sector via signposting or referrals, as required in line with client need and capacity. The teams are based throughout the UK, including Northern Ireland.

Young Offenders: Girls

Asked by Lord Blencathra

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to house girls convicted of crimes in female-only prison units. [HL4322]

Lord Bellamy: As of February 2024, girls make up less than 1 per cent of the children and young people in the youth estate. There have been fewer than 10 girls in the youth estate at any one time during the period September 2023 to February 2024 (the latest for which figures are available).

Within the youth estate, girls may be placed in establishments that also accommodate boys: in Secure Children's Homes, at Oakhill Secure Training Centre and at HMYOI Wetherby. Within each sector, every child has his or her own room. When boys and girls come into contact with each other – in education and association areas – they are supervised by staff at all times. The availability of these options is designed to enable the needs of each individual girl to be met in the most appropriate way. We are keeping the position of girls in the youth estate under constant review, and the Youth Custody Service is developing a gender-specific operating

model for HMYOI Wetherby, as well as gender-responsive guidance for the wider youth estate.

For the longer term, we are reviewing options, and examining future placement locations and services, for

girls who require custody, together with the training and operational support that staff need to enable them to care for girls in the youth estate.

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