

Vol. 739
No. 42



Monday
24 September 2012

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

OFFICIAL REPORT

*This book contains all Written Statements and Answers received during
the Summer Recess up to 24 September 2012.*

£3.50

Lords wishing to be supplied with these Daily Reports should give notice to this effect to the Printed Paper Office.

The bound volumes also will be sent to those Peers who similarly notify their wish to receive them.

No proofs of Daily Reports are provided. Corrections for the bound volume which Lords wish to suggest to the report of their speeches should be clearly indicated in a copy of the Daily Report, which, with the column numbers concerned shown on the front cover, should be sent to the Editor of Debates, House of Lords, within 14 days of the date of the Daily Report.

This issue of the Official Report is also available on the Internet at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/index/120924.html

PRICES AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

DAILY PARTS

Single copies:

Commons, £5; Lords £3.50

Annual subscriptions:

Commons, £865; Lords £525

WEEKLY HANSARD

Single copies:

Commons, £12; Lords £6

Annual subscriptions:

Commons, £440; Lords £255

Index:

Annual subscriptions:

Commons, £125; Lords, £65.

LORDS VOLUME INDEX obtainable on standing order only.

Details available on request.

BOUND VOLUMES OF DEBATES are issued periodically during the session.

Single copies:

Commons, £105; Lords, £40.

Standing orders will be accepted.

THE INDEX to each Bound Volume of House of Commons Debates is published separately at £9.00 and can be supplied to standing order.

All prices are inclusive of postage.

© Parliamentary Copyright House of Lords 2012,
*this publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament licence,
which is published at www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright/.*

Written Statements

Statements received between Wednesday 25 July and Monday 3 September 2012

Armed Forces: Pay Review Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Philip Hammond) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that I have reappointed Ms Judy McKnight CBE as a member of the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body for a second term for three years and six months, commencing September 2012. This reappointment was conducted in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' guidance on reappointments to public bodies.

Freedom of Information Veto Statement

The Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness): My right honourable friend the Attorney-General (Dominic Grieve) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 31 July, I gave the Information Commissioner a certificate under Section 53(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act"). The certificate relates to the Commissioner's Decision Notice dated 4 July 2012 (FS50417514). It is my view, as the accountable person for the purposes of Section 53 of the Act in this case, that there was no failure by the Cabinet Office to comply with Section 1(1)(b) of the Act by withholding information contained in the minutes of the Cabinet discussions on 13 and 17 March 2003 concerning the military invasion of Iraq.

The consequence of my giving the Information Commissioner this certificate is that the Commissioner's Decision Notice, which ordered disclosure of extracts of these minutes, ceases to have effect.

I was required to reach a decision in this case during the summer recess as a result of the statutory deadlines set out in the Freedom of Information Act. A copy of the certificate was laid before each House of Parliament on 31 July. I am making this Statement to the House at the first available opportunity.

My decision to exercise the veto in this case was taken in accordance with the Act and the published Statement of Government Policy on the use of the executive override as it relates to information falling within the scope of Section 35(1) of the Act. In reaching my decision, I assessed the balance of the public interests in disclosure and non-disclosure of the extracts of the minutes and I considered whether this case met the criteria set out in that policy for determining whether or not this was an exceptional case.

It was my opinion as the "accountable person" in this case, as well as the collective view of the Cabinet, that (1) disclosure of this information would be damaging to the doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility and detrimental to the effective operation of Cabinet

government; (2) the balance of public interest favoured the continued non-disclosure of the information; and (3) this was an exceptional case and met the criteria set out in the policy on the use of the veto.

Having reached that conclusion, I decided to exercise the power in Section 53(2) of the Act.

A detailed explanation of the basis on which I arrived at the conclusion that the veto should be used is set out in a statement of reasons which has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

This is the fifth time the veto power under Section 53 of the Freedom of Information Act has been exercised since the Act came into force in 2005, although this veto and another recent one (8 February 2012) followed previous vetoes by the last Government in respect of the same information. Since the Act came into force, central Government have released an enormous amount of information in response to FOI requests—including in July and October 2010 when the Government published Cabinet Office papers on the miners' strike and the minutes of the Cabinet discussion of the Westland affair.

Office of the Public Guardian: A Consultation Statement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Jonathan Djanogly) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 27 July, the Government published a consultation paper seeking views on our proposals to digitise the services provided by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). This consultation reinforces our commitment to implementing the "digital by default" approach in public services.

The OPG is currently undertaking a programme of reform that is designed to meet two key challenges. First, to reform its systems and processes in order to deal effectively and consistently with ever-increasing demand to register lasting powers of attorney—a trend that is set to continue with the country's ageing demographic. Secondly, to transform the way its services are delivered to the public in order to reduce bureaucracy, making its services to customers simpler, more efficient and more accessible. This will be achieved by making the majority of its services accessible online.

Our consultation paper, therefore, seeks views on the following issues:

- the forms and application process for lasting powers of attorney;
- the language used to explain legal responsibilities;
- the role of certificate providers;
- the process for registering lasting powers of attorney;
- the role of named persons;
- how confirmation is given that a lasting power of attorney has been registered;
- the statutory waiting period for lasting powers of attorney;
- supervision of deputies;

changing security bond provider;
 online payment of fees;
 access to the registers; and
 providing an “assisted digital” service.

The consultation will run until 19 October. Following this, it is our intention to make the necessary changes to enable the provisions to come into force in April 2013.

Copies of the consultation paper are available in the Libraries of both Houses, as well as in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Social Security Schemes

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): My right honourable friend the Minister for Employment (Chris Grayling) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The European Commission has presented a package of four draft Council Decisions amending the provisions for the co-ordination of social security systems with Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey. The content of the proposals relating to the first three countries is similar and is based on an earlier 2010 package of amendments to the agreements with the six countries of Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Israel. As with the 2010 package, the proposals are based on Article 79(2)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), which enables the UK to decide whether to opt-in to such proposals. In line with our approach to the 2010 package, the Government have decided not to opt in to the proposals with Albania, Montenegro and San Marino.

The Government are committed to the free movement of workers within the European Union, and also to protecting the sustainability and affordability of our welfare systems. As such, the Government maintain the position that they do not wish to extend social security rights to third country nationals.

The proposal to amend the Association Agreement with Turkey is based on Article 48 TFEU, which governs social security co-ordination for migrant workers within the EU and which is subject to qualified majority voting. The UK has consistently contested proposals with an Article 48 legal base in relation to third countries agreements, maintaining that the correct legal base for such proposals is Article 79(2)(b) TFEU which allows the EU to adopt measures concerning the free movement rights of third country nationals.

The Turkey draft Decision follows on from similar measures based on Article 48 to amend social security provisions in the EU agreements with the EEA and Switzerland. Then, as now, we took the view that these proposals would have the effect of extending social security co-ordination rights to people moving between the EU and a third country and that the Article 48 legal base was inappropriate as it related only to free movement within the EU.

The UK is currently seeking to annul in the Court of Justice of the EU the Council Decisions based on Article 48 in the EEA and Switzerland cases. A ruling is not expected until late in 2013. In the mean time, the Government intend to maintain a consistent approach to the proposals on Turkey, in line with the action taken in the EEA and Switzerland cases. We will continue to press for the correct Title V legal base to be applied to the Turkey proposals, and should the draft Council Decision on Turkey be adopted on the basis of a qualified majority before the Court has ruled on the EEA and Switzerland cases, we will take appropriate action including a further legal challenge if appropriate.

The Government believe that a consistent approach is necessary in order to underline an important point of principle concerning the interpretation of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to affirm the Government’s commitment to protect our rights under the Treaty.

*Statements received between Monday 3 September
and Monday 10 September 2012*

Arms Trade Treaty

Statement

The Senior Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My right honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Alistair Burt) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I would like to update the House on the outcome of the UN conference on the arms trade treaty (ATT) which took place in New York from 2 to 27 July 2012.

The conference followed six years of work in the UN to secure a legally binding treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional arms. The illegal, or poorly regulated, trade in conventional arms costs lives and blights futures. More than 740,000 men, women and children die each year as a result of armed violence.

The UK has led international efforts to secure an ATT over the last six years, and last month the UN conference came close to reaching an agreement on a treaty.

The UK delegation was led by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and comprised representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for International Development and a representative from the UK defence industry. The Minister of State, Department for International Development and I also travelled to New York during the negotiations to help sustain the momentum of the process. The UK delegation played a leading role in the negotiations, co-ordinating closely with civil society, and supported by Ministers and officials from across Whitehall and by the UK’s extensive network of international posts. I pay tribute to all the individuals involved.

Four weeks of difficult and complex negotiations led to a robust and balanced treaty text which the United Kingdom and the vast majority of other states

felt able to support. However on the final day of the conference a small number of countries asked for more time to consider the text, meaning that the conference ended without agreement. As the Foreign Secretary made it clear in his statement of 28 July, we were disappointed that the negotiations did not reach a conclusion. However we recognise that to be fully effective the treaty will need broad and ideally universal participation.

This is not an end to the arms trade treaty process. We are absolutely committed to securing a robust and effective treaty, and will continue to devote significant diplomatic efforts to this goal. We will continue our work on the basis of the draft treaty considered at the conference. The UN General Assembly will be the next opportunity for us to address the issue among the whole UN membership. While there is still work to be done, we remain optimistic that a meaningful and coherent ATT that will make a positive difference to millions of lives is in reach, and our goal will be its agreement during the next UN General Assembly session in 2012-13.

Aviation *Statement*

Earl Attlee: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Transport (Patrick McLoughlin) has made the following ministerial Statement.

International connectivity is vital to support economic growth. This Government have made clear that their priority is returning this country to sustainable economic growth and our aviation networks and infrastructure have an important role to play.

The UK is an island nation dependent upon its transport links to the rest of the world for its prosperity. The aviation industry in the UK is extremely successful. It is a significant economic sector employing 220,000 directly and supporting many more indirectly and it contributes more than £16 billion of economic output. 35% of UK non-EU trade by value enters or leaves the country by aeroplane. Importantly the industry also provides this country with the global connections which our businesses need to sell their products abroad and which inward investors to the UK demand.

The Government recognise the importance of aviation to the UK. It is taking forward the Civil Aviation Bill to reform the economic regulation of airports to further the interests of passengers and create a better environment for investment. It is implementing the recommendations of the South East Airports Taskforce, including a trial of operational freedoms at Heathrow airport to improve reliability and reduce delay. In July the Government published a draft Aviation Policy Framework (APF) for consultation, a framework which will set the high-level policy parameters within which any new proposals for airport development may be considered. The final APF will be adopted by the end of March 2013. Alongside the draft APF the Government announced a number of short-term measures to deliver operational improvements and boost economic growth within existing airport capacity constraints including £500 million

towards a western rail link to Heathrow, a review of the UK's visa regime and the recruitment of 70 additional border staff at Heathrow.

Today the UK is amongst the best connected countries in the world. Our airports, particularly those in the south-east, deliver direct flights to over 360 destinations, including those of greatest economic importance. London has more flights to more destinations than any other city in Europe, more flights to the important trading centres like New York, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The Government are determined to deliver a solution which will continue to provide that connectivity in the short, medium and longer term.

This is a very difficult debate, but the reality is that since the 1960s Britain has failed to keep pace with our international competitors in addressing long-term aviation capacity and connectivity needs. Germany, France and the Netherlands have all grown their capacity more extensively than the UK over the years, and so are better equipped, now and in the future, to connect with the fast-growing markets of emerging economies. The consequences are clear. Our largest airport and our only hub airport—Heathrow—is already operating at capacity. Gatwick, the world's busiest single-runway airport, will be full early in the next decade, while spare capacity at Stansted airport is forecast to run out in the early 2030s.

The Government believe that maintaining the UK's status as a leading global aviation hub is fundamental to our long-term international competitiveness. But the Government are also mindful of the need to take full account of the social, environmental and other impacts of any expansion in airport capacity.

Successive Governments have sought to develop a credible long-term aviation policy to meet the international connectivity needs of the UK. In each case the policy has failed for want of trust in the process, consensus on the evidence upon which the policy was based and the difficulty of sustaining a challenging long-term policy through a change of Government. The country cannot afford for this failure to continue.

The Government have asked Sir Howard Davies to chair an independent commission tasked with identifying and recommending to the Government options for maintaining this country's status as an international hub for aviation.

The commission will:

- examine the scale and timing of any requirement for additional capacity to maintain the UK's position as Europe's most important aviation hub; and

- identify and evaluate how any need for additional capacity should be met in the short, medium and long term.

In doing so, the commission will provide an interim report to the Government no later than the end of 2013 setting out:

- its assessment of the evidence on the nature, scale and timing of the steps needed to maintain the UK's global hub status; and

its recommendation(s) for immediate actions to improve the use of existing runway capacity in the next five years—consistent with credible long-term options.

The commission will then publish by the summer of 2015 a final report, for consideration by the Government and Opposition parties, containing:

its assessment of the options for meeting the UK's international connectivity needs, including their economic, social and environmental impact;

its recommendation(s) for the optimum approach to meeting any need;

its recommendation(s) for ensuring that the need is met as expeditiously as practicable within the required timescale; and

materials to support the Government in preparing a national policy statement to accelerate the resolution of any future planning application(s).

A decision on whether to support any of the recommendations contained in the final report will be taken by the next Government.

The Government intend this independent commission to be part of a process that is fair and open and that takes account of the views of passengers and residents as well as the aviation industry, business, local and devolved government and environmental groups. We would like, if possible, to involve the opposition as part of our work alongside Sir Howard to finalise the arrangements for the commission. I will provide Parliament with further details on the full membership of the commission and the terms of reference for its work shortly.

Bilateral Loan to Ireland

Statement

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): My right honourable friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I would like to update the House on the loan to Ireland.

Ireland completed the sixth quarterly review of its International Monetary Fund and European Union programme of financial assistance on 21 June 2012, following which the utilisation period for the fourth instalment of the UK bilateral loan began.

Upon request, the Treasury disbursed the fourth instalment of £403.37 million on 1 August 2012, with a maturity date of 3 February 2020.

The Treasury will provide a further report to Parliament in relation to the bilateral loan as required under the Loans to Ireland Act 2010 as soon as is practicable following the next reporting period, which ends on 30 September 2012.

As my written Statement of 11 June outlined, agreement has been reached in principle on a new, lower interest rate on the bilateral loan to Ireland. This is subject to the loan agreement being revised to

reflect the new interest rate. I will update Parliament once the revised loan agreement has been finalised and signed.

The Government believe that it is in our national interest that the Irish economy is successful and its banking system is stable. The Government continue to support Ireland's efforts to improve its economic situation.

Brownfield Allowance

Statement

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): My honourable friend the Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Sajid Javid) has made the following ministerial Statement:

The Government are today announcing that they will introduce a brownfield allowance for companies undertaking additional development in certain older fields in the UK continental shelf.

This follows the announcement at Budget 2012 that the Government would introduce legislation in Finance Bill 2012 giving it the power to introduce targeted measures to support investment in brownfields. The Government also committed to engage further with industry on how any such allowance could be structured to unlock investment while protecting Exchequer revenues. This legislation was agreed by the House and was given Royal Assent on 17 July 2012.

This allowance will encourage companies to continue investing in vital North Sea infrastructure, and to get the most out of ageing assets. It comes on top of the ambitious package of measures that the Government have already announced this year to support investment in the UK continental shelf.

The allowance will shield a portion of income in fields with qualifying projects from the 32% supplementary charge rate, and will be available from the accounting period in which incremental production from the qualifying project is expected to start. A qualifying project will be an incremental project increasing expected production from an offshore oil or gas field as described in a revised consent for development which is authorised by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on or after 7 September 2012, and has verified expected capital costs per tonne of incremental reserves in excess of £60. Where a project forms part of a larger development, all elements of the development must receive authorisation consent on the same day.

The field allowance for a qualifying project will be £50 per tonne of expected incremental reserves for projects with a verified expected capital cost per tonne of incremental reserves of £80 or greater, with a straight-line taper to no allowance at a capital cost of £60 per tonne, and no allowance for projects with capital costs below that level. The maximum allowance for which a single project can qualify will be £500 million for projects in fields paying petroleum revenue tax, and £250 million for other projects (i.e. maximum tax relief of £160 million and £80 million respectively at the current 32% supplementary charge rate).

The Government will keep under review the inclusion of projects involving enhanced oil recovery using carbon dioxide. However, such projects will not initially fall

within the scope of the allowance because of concerns around cost apportionment across the upstream/downstream boundary. Changes to the field allowance regime may be made by order. The Government intend to lay the necessary order before the House of Commons later this year.

Further detail on how cost and reserve estimates are to be calculated for qualifying projects will be set out on the HMRC website and in the relevant secondary legislation later this year.

The Office for Budget Responsibility will publish the full scorecard costings of this measure over the forecast period at the time of its autumn forecast. Initial estimations are that the change will cost around £100 million a year in the forecast period.

As this is a new type of allowance, the Government will review its effectiveness in 2015 to ensure that the oil and gas fiscal regime continues to be structured in a way that stimulates investment while ensuring a fair return for the taxpayer.

Correction to Parliamentary Question 90451 *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My right honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I regret to inform the House that the answer I gave to parliamentary question 90451 from my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Jackie Doyle-Price) on 24 January 2012, *Official Report*, column 135W, could be inadvertently misleading.

The answer should read:

The housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) allows local authorities to assess properties against 29 different hazards, including damp and mould growth. If following an inspection a property is found to contain a serious, “category 1”, hazard, we would expect the local authority to take action in relation to the hazard. The assessment for whether damp is a hazard takes into account factors such as the state of repair of the dwelling, the extent of existing dampness and the effect it could have on mould growth, and the consequent potential for harm.

Dairy Industry *Statement*

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord De Mauley): My right honourable friend the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mr James Paice) has made the following ministerial Statement:

During the summer, the UK dairy industry suffered a major crisis caused by price cuts and I would like to update the House on events since then. Original price cuts were withdrawn, whilst processors, producers and retailers held discussions.

On Friday 31 August, industry leaders agreed a code of practice on contractual relationships in the dairy sector. This is a significant step forward. The code of practice is a robust and proactive basis for a more effective system of raw milk contracts that will provide greater certainty and clarity for all parties. It addresses issues of price, volume, timing of deliveries and duration, and it includes effective processes to analyse progress and review the impact of the code.

The Government will continue to work with industry to build on this progress. We will shortly consult on key elements of the European Commission’s proposals for the European dairy sector (the EU “Milk Package”). We will seek views on whether it should be compulsory for dairy producers and processors to have a written contract. But at this stage the Government consider that the new code of practice should be given proper time to take effect and deliver change for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

The Government also recognise the value of farmers working together in producer organisations to improve their profitability through efficiency and competitiveness gains as well as increasing their negotiating power. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs recently announced that £5 million-worth of new funding will be made available for farmers to collaborate and to support business-led innovation. We will consult on the arrangements needed to implement dairy producer organisations and work with industry to encourage participation and secure the benefits of effective collaboration.

The UK is one of the largest milk producers in the world. Dairy is the UK’s single largest sector of agriculture and its future prospects are positive. There is growing recognition that real changes are needed at all levels of the supply chain to drive greater confidence, innovation and investment and take advantage of the huge opportunities that exist—in domestic markets and abroad. Over the last few weeks, dairy farmers and buyers have faced up to some of the most challenging issues currently facing the UK dairy industry and taken steps to address the problems that are hindering its development.

There are potentially bright prospects for the UK dairy industry. Apart from Ireland, the UK has the best climate for growing grass in Europe and we should be producing more value-added products such as cheese, butter and yoghurt for the domestic dairy market. The UK currently has to import 50% of these products, which indicates that the sector is not yet reaching its full potential.

There are also major export opportunities with emerging markets such as China, whose growing middle classes are crying out for dairy products. Early in 2012 the Government published a food and farming exports action plan to encourage more food and drink companies to venture into overseas markets. This includes supporting and encouraging businesses at home and promoting British food abroad and opening up markets.

Securing a healthy future for the UK dairy industry is a real priority for the Government. We are confident about its longer-term prospects and the agreement of the industry code of practice is a genuine step forward which we support.

DCLG: Summer Recess Work *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I would like to update honourable Members on the main items of business undertaken by my department since the House rose on 17 July 2012.

Reviving the nation's high streets

Our high streets are at the centre of our communities, hubs of local businesses and drivers of growth. The coalition Government are determined to support them and create the best possible conditions to allow businesses to thrive and communities to prosper.

On 20 July, my department published proposals to scrap restrictions that deter start-up businesses from using empty high-street shops. Removing these restrictions on a temporary basis for empty buildings would open up premises, which otherwise would make no contribution to the local economy. This will boost high street and local area regeneration helping encourage start-up businesses.

On 25 July, my department announced a further 15 Portas pilot areas, which will be given a share of a £1.5 million fund along with dedicated advice and free support from established businesses to bring their ideas about the development of their high streets to fruition. This takes the total number of Portas pilots to 27.

To ensure that no high street is left behind my department has also announced a £5.5 million package of support for 393 town teams to revitalise their high streets. All town teams from across the country will also be able to bid for a £1 million future high-street X-fund to reward the most effective and creative schemes to encourage people back to the town centres in 2013, and a £0.5 million fund to help access set-up loans for new business improvement districts. Applications opened on 30 August.

On 1 September, my department announced new planning rights that will allow more flats to be created above shops without the need for planning permission. The change further streamlines the planning system, making it easier, quicker and cheaper for people to create new homes in existing underused space. It has the potential to help increase the amount of affordable housing and ensures better use is made of existing developed land. Relaxing planning restrictions on creating flats above shops can also help increase the vitality of town centres by increasing footfall and providing a boost to high-street regeneration.

Supporting local enterprise

By promoting enterprise, investing in research, creating jobs and giving people more skills we are sending a powerful signal that Britain is a top choice for inward investment and bringing local growth.

On 24 July, my department announced £3.5 million of government investment for manufacturing innovation for the new High Speed Sustainable Manufacturing

Institute in Essex. The institute will develop new and innovative ways to improve manufacturing techniques and increase productivity that will ensure Britain remains a top choice for investment. It is expected to generate £80 million to the local economy.

The creation of a UK-wide coastal communities fund was announced by the Government last year to provide grants to support the economic development of coastal communities and help pay for projects that can transform and diversify seaside economies. On 14 August my department announced six seaside towns in the first round of successful schemes in England that will receive grants of up to £2 million each to use on projects that create local jobs, support coastal tourism and development and boost the inshore fisheries industry.

Kick-starting stalled development

Many Section 106 agreements negotiated between councils and developers at the height of the housing boom have become unviable, stalling development to the detriment of regeneration and the prosperity of local communities who would benefit.

Stalled sites mean no new homes, no new jobs and no community benefits. On 13 August, my department announced that teams of expert intermediaries will be available to councils and developers, offering free-of-charge advice and support to prevent these agreements acting as a barrier to getting building under way.

In addition, my department launched a consultation that proposes giving developers the option to ask councils to renegotiate Section 106 obligations if they were agreed prior to April 2010. Currently these obligations cannot be renegotiated for five years once a council refuses a request for voluntary renegotiation by a developer. Opening up the renegotiation process further will provide another new opportunity to help get developments back on track, provide affordable housing and bring wider benefits for communities.

On 29 August, alongside the Department for Transport, Kent County Council and Dartford and Gravesham borough councils, my department announced a deal to unlock the development of 22,600 much needed homes in Eastern Quarry over the next 20 years, delivering as many as 60,000 jobs and bringing a brownfield site back into use. Builders could be on site as early as next summer with the first homes set to be completed by December 2013.

Building more and better quality homes

The design of an area has a significant and lasting impact on the quality of life for residents. This Government believe it is vital that local people have a say over how their communities look and feel.

On 22 August, my department, along with Sir Terence Conran, British designer and entrepreneur, announced a competition launching in the autumn, to give communities a chance to design their own neighbourhoods. Communities will be invited to submit their designs in front of an expert judging panel.

On 23 August, my department welcomed a report by Sir Adrian Montague recommending measures to boost professional investment in good-quality, privately rented homes to help meet the nation's housing demand.

In April, my department launched a reinvigorated right to buy offering eligible tenants discounts of up to £75,000 off the value of their home, accompanied by a new commitment to build replacement homes on a one-for-one basis. To assist tenants in their right to buy on 23 July, we launched a new website and dedicated call centre to provide more advice, information and support.

Strong, united communities

This Government are committed to turning around the lives of 120,000 troubled families. On 18 July, we published a report highlighting the real-life accounts of troubled families that underline our approach to tackling the root causes of the problems faced by these families and bring about real and lasting change.

6 August 2012 marked the anniversary of last year's riots. One year on coalition Ministers highlighted the ongoing work to restore communities. Millions of pounds have been made available to councils to quickly help reopen shops and rebuild affected neighbourhoods and we have ensured that the police continue to build positive relationships with those areas.

In February 2012, my department announced a £10 million investment in Youth United—a coalition of the major youth volunteering organisations. Over the next two and a half years over 2,500 volunteers will be recruited to run 400 youth groups in communities across the country. Six months on, my department has noted the quick and enthusiastic take-up and continues to encourage work to support young people who want to have a real stake in the future of their communities.

The expertise and excellence of the nation's voluntary and community sector supporting in the delivery of high-quality local services are valued by the local communities they serve. On 24 July, my department noted their huge contribution and wrote to councils to express gratitude for the positive way the majority are working with the sector and reminded local authorities of the ongoing need to ensure that the sector is not left behind when it comes to funding allocations.

The Olympics brought together communities in celebration and sense of pride and support behind Team Great Britain and indeed all other participants. This continues during the Paralympic Games. Over the recess period my department took an active role in supporting the Games raising the flag outside the department and through ministerial visits and attendance at the games.

Empowering local communities

On 28 August, my department announced that £1.3 million will be made available from the £8 million tenant empowerment programme, help to give more power to communities over their social homes including through helping tenants learn the skills they need to engage and negotiate confidently with their landlords; forming tenant panels to come together to demand the best value-for-money services; or even to take control of local services themselves if they feel that they could deliver more for less.

On 29 August, my department made available a £10 million fund to help councils ensure their communities are able to finalise neighbourhood plans for homes, businesses and facilities in their local area. Already

more than 200 communities are using the new planning powers introduced in the Localism Act. Councils can now apply for grants of up to £30,000 for each scheme to help pay for the costs of getting plans in place. Payments will be paid to councils to help them support and advise.

On 22 August, my department published guidance that gives local people practical advice on new ways to get access to less conventional sources of land and green space to grow their own food to take greater control of their local area.

Abolishing regional planning

Revoking regional strategies outside of London formed part of the coalition agreement. The Localism Act 2011 provides for the abolition of regional strategies in a two-stage process. The first stage is to remove the regional planning framework and prevent further strategies from being created, and the second stage is to abolish the existing regional strategies by secondary legislation.

The strategic environmental assessment process is set out in an EU directive (directive 2001/42/EC). In March 2012, the European Court of Justice issued a significant ruling on the interpretation and application of the directive (Inter-Environnement Bruxelles ASBL and Others v Government of the Brussels-Capital Region). Following the decision of the European Court of Justice, in the light of planning policy and legislation that have been put in place since January 2012, in the light of the earlier consultation responses, and in order to be meticulous in observing the requirements of the directive, the Government are now updating the environmental reports and undertaking additional consultation.

On 25 July, we published the first of the updated environmental reports for consultation. In the coming weeks my department will publish updated environmental reports relating to the proposals on each of the other regional strategies, so that those proposals too can be the subject of additional consultation. A full Statement is published the House of Lords *Official Report*, 25 July 2012, column 66 *WS*.

Tackling repossession and preventing homelessness

Tackling the record deficit and ensuring that interest rates are kept down and mortgages are affordable remain top priorities of this Government. On 9 August, latest figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that the number of homes taken into possession in quarter 2 2012 (April to June) had gone down by 11% on the previous quarter to 8,500. This is the lowest figure since the final quarter of 2010.

We have some of the strongest protections in the world to safeguard people from homelessness. No single voluntary service, government agency, council or government department can prevent homelessness alone, but by working together we can make a big impact.

On 16 August, my department published the *Making Every Contact Count* report giving councils, charities, health services and the police a blueprint to work together to ensure that families and vulnerable people at risk of homelessness are offered help early, no matter who they turn to first.

In addition, my department announced a further £3.5 million to 21 homelessness charities to support help and accommodation schemes for rough sleepers and extend the No Second Night Out initiative to eight more areas—Manchester, Plymouth, Great Yarmouth, north Devon, Taunton, Gloucestershire, Chichester and Worcestershire.

On 31 August, my department announced £160 million over the next two years in homelessness prevention grants—offering certainty that homelessness services will be funded to the end of this Parliament.

This is in addition to the £160 million that has been allocated to councils over this and last year, which has been used to offer support to those facing the threat of homelessness.

Ensuring fair play on housing and planning

On 28 August, my department published new guidance for local authorities highlighting the range of legal powers they have to tackle unauthorised encampments and development. It is often thought that local authorities and other enforcement bodies have limited powers available to tackle illegal and unauthorised encampments and the nuisance that they can cause. In fact there are extensive powers, and timely action by local authorities can save time and money down the line before such encampments become established.

On 31 August, in partnership with the Home Office, my department launched new guidance to councils making clear the wide range of powers at their disposal to clamp down on rogue landlords. Thousands of unauthorised sheds and outbuildings are being rented out illegally to vulnerable migrants by landlords who charge them extortionate rents to live in cramped conditions. Councils in the worst affected areas have at their disposal £1.8 million of central funding to help tackle the problem of rogue landlords.

On 1 September, new laws came into effect in England and Wales to make squatting in residential buildings a criminal offence. My department has worked with the Ministry of Justice to highlight these new provisions. For too long, squatters have had the justice system on the run and have caused home owners untold misery in eviction, repair and clean-up costs. Hardworking home owners need and deserve a justice system where their rights come first—this new offence will ensure the police and other agencies can take quick and decisive action to deal with the misery of squatting.

Saving taxpayers' money: Increasing transparency

The department continues in its drive for open and transparent government. Following the introduction of a new localist standards regime, councillors are now required to register certain pecuniary interests, including trade union dealings on a publicly available register. Deliberate failure to declare interests could result in a criminal conviction.

To help make sure the new approach is properly understood, on 1 August my department published a practical guide to implementing the new system and demonstrating how the new local standards strike a common-sense balance between electoral accountability and personal privacy. It clarifies specific issues like urgency of declarations; personal information safety; handling spouse or partner interests; and gold-plating.

The coalition Government's transparency code for councils has already seen all local authorities publish their spending over £500 online and open every aspect of business up to public scrutiny, including tenders, contracts, senior pay, councillor expenses and voluntary-sector funding. On 15 August, my department announced it is now publishing all of its spend data over £250, a new low threshold in central Government.

On 23 August, my department put forward new regulations before Parliament that will come into force on 10 September 2012 to extend the rights of people to attend all meetings of a council's executive, its committees and subcommittees. The changes will result in greater public scrutiny opening up councils to local online news outlets and disallowing councils from citing political advice as justification for closing a meeting to the public and press.

Saving taxpayers' money: Tackling council tax fraud and error

The coalition Government have worked with councils to freeze council tax for two years, cutting council tax in real terms. Since 2006 council benefit fraud and error have cost the taxpayer an estimated £1.1 billion—an average of around £3 million per council. On 28 August, I reminded councils of the urgent need to get to grips with council tax fraud to ensure they can fully support hard-working families and genuinely vulnerable people and deliver value for money to taxpayers.

Government reforms are localising council tax support, putting councils in charge of the discount and giving them a stronger incentive to support local firms, cut fraud and promote local enterprise. Councils will be expected to save over £400 million a year when they begin running local council tax support schemes next year. Councils will keep all savings they can make from reducing fraud and error.

In addition, on 28 August, my department published a consultation document which seeks views on proposals to provide funding certainty for local precepting authorities (such as town and parish councils), as part of the process for localising support for council tax.

Saving taxpayers' money: Legacy FiReControl assets

On 25 July, my department updated Parliament on the status of the legacy of FiReControl and the launch of a marketing campaign to ensure that the remaining FiReControl buildings are utilised to ensure value for taxpayers' money and achieve a localist approach to improvements in resilience. The full Statement can be found in the House of Lords *Official Report*, 25 July 2012, column 62WS.

Saving taxpayers' money: Departmental savings

I would like to update the House on the administrative savings being made by my department. Latest estimates suggest that the DCLG Group (i.e. the department and its agencies) is making a 44% real-terms saving against its running costs over this spending review period by 2014-15. This equates to savings of over £570 million by 2014-15, of which £420 million is from the closure of the government offices for the regions.

This £570 million figure is an increase from the previous estimates of a £390 million saving. These savings reflect the coalition Government's agenda of decentralisation, ending the micromanagement of local

government, the abolition of regional government and the broader need to tackle the deficit left by the last Administration.

Ministerial correspondence

I would like to put on the record my thanks to Lord Lexden for undertaking an informal review of departmental correspondence, providing advice on how we can improve the quality and style of ministerial and official replies to correspondence.

Copies of the press notices and documents associated with these announcements have been placed in the Library of the House.

Family Courts: Expert Evidence

Statement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Jonathan Djanogly), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Written Answer given to the honourable Member for Birmingham Yardley (John Hemming) on 30 April 2012, *Official Report*, col. 1158W did not fully address the question that was asked. The honourable Member asked, pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2012, *Official Report*, column 920W, on “Family Courts: Expert Evidence”, if the Secretary of State would bring forward proposals to allow non-legally qualified people who are not party to the proceeding to refer expert reports in family proceedings to regulators.

The full answer is as follows:

The Government have no plans to bring forward proposals of this kind. The Government do not consider it necessary, since it is already possible for someone who is not a party to the proceedings to refer an expert’s report to regulators provided certain conditions are met.

The Family Procedure Rules 2010 permit a party to the proceedings, or that party’s legal representative acting on the party’s instructions, to communicate information to another person where necessary to enable the party to make and pursue a complaint against a person or body involved in the proceedings, which would include disclosing an expert’s report to another person for the purpose of pursuing a complaint about that expert. That person is then permitted (with the party’s permission) to disclose this information to another person (who may, for example, be the regulator) provided it is for the same purpose. Neither the person to whom the information is disclosed in the first instance, nor the person to whom it is subsequently disclosed, need be legally qualified. The relevant rules (FPR 12.75 (3) and 12.75 (1) (c)) are set out in Part 12 of the Family Procedure Rules.

Fluoridation

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Anne Milton), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Department of Health is publishing a consultation on the arrangements for consideration of proposals on the fluoridation of drinking water today.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides that, from 1 April 2013, responsibility for consultations on proposals on fluoridation will transfer from strategic health authorities to local authorities. The proposals could be for a new fluoridation scheme or the variation or termination of an existing fluoridation scheme. The consultation document sets out options for the making of water fluoridation regulations under the Act on the conduct of consultations, ascertaining public opinion and the decision-making process.

Our aim is to put in place a fair and practical way to amend powers for consideration of proposals on fluoridation schemes. The merits of fluoridation itself will be considered locally in accordance with the regulations. We welcome views and will use these views to inform our thinking on the regulations.

A copy of *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the Arrangements for Consideration of Proposals on the Fluoridation of Drinking Water* has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to honourable Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Framework Agreement for Technical Support

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): has made the following ministerial Statement.

I wish to inform the House that one element of the current framework agreement for technical support (FATS) contract signed in April 2012 will need to be re-competed.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) uses FATS to procure specialist technical support to its defence equipment programmes and it is also used on a limited basis by other government departments. Suppliers compete to become members of the framework; users then place specific tasks through the framework, as and when they arise, preferably by running further competitions between member suppliers. The first iteration of FATS was instituted in 2006.

The fourth iteration of the framework, FATS4, was competed and companies selected to be members, with the framework commencing on 26 April 2012. The framework is broken into two lots. Lot one covers general support relating to materials, electrical/mechanical, power plants, IT, health, medical and transport requirements. Lot two relates to safety and duty of care areas such as airworthiness management, safety management, maritime safety, and technical support to platforms and weapons.

Technical deficiencies have been discovered in the way that lot two of FATS4 was awarded. Errors have been found in the way the assessment of suppliers’ technical capability, for lot two, was conducted and recorded. Some suppliers are therefore on the framework who should not have qualified and others, who should have qualified, were wrongly excluded from the process.

As a result, I have directed that the MoD and other government departments must stop using lot two with immediate effect. The current situation is not fair and equitable to suppliers who bid to be included on this framework and, given that the areas affected relate to duty of care and safety, no risk can be taken over supplier capability. Contracts already placed under lot two will remain in place as none has been placed with a supplier in respect of whom any irregularity has occurred. Lot one is unaffected and will continue in use.

Despite this setback, FATS continues to represent a useful and efficient route for procuring specialist technical services and a replacement framework to cover these requirements will be put in place, which we estimate will take around six months. During this time, the MoD and other customers will place their own contracts individually for their specific needs following normal procurement process. This process will be managed so that it does not cause any delay in delivering equipment to our Armed Forces. The renewed competition and interim arrangements mean that the effect on any one supplier's business is likely to be negligible.

The MoD has written to all affected suppliers to apologise for this failure of process and to inform them of the action being taken. I have asked the director commercial of the Department for Work and Pensions to conduct an external investigation to identify how and why this happened and to make recommendations as to how to prevent similar issues in the future. If evidence is brought to light that proper processes have not been followed, then disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Hargeisa British Office *Statement*

Senior Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to inform the House that the British Office in Hargeisa opened formally on 3 September, in line with my intent to establish a presence in Mogadishu and Hargeisa as soon as local conditions allow. This office enables officials to stay in Hargeisa for short periods to carry out diplomatic work in Somaliland. Because of the security situation, this office will not have any consular functions, and we have not changed our advice on travel to the region. Staff are already able to travel and stay in our office in Mogadishu, where work continues on plans to reopen the embassy as soon as local circumstances permit.

The new office in Hargeisa and future British embassy in Mogadishu are part of the expansion of Britain's diplomatic network that I announced to the House on 4 September, *Official Report*, col. 152. This involves the opening of up to 11 new embassies, up to eight new British consulates/British trade offices and the redeployment of around 300 extra staff in more than 20 countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

I will provide the House with a further update on UK diplomatic representation in Somalia as progress is made.

Health: Education, Training and Workforce Planning *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Anna Soubry MP), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The House of Commons Health Select Committee published its report on education, training and workforce planning on 23 May 2012. We have today laid before Parliament the government response to the House of Commons Health Select Committee First Report of Session 21012-13: Education, Training and Workforce Planning (Cm 8435).

The committee welcomed the overall direction of the Government's reforms in this area, including the establishment of Health Education England and local education and training boards, though it called for more detail and clarity on particular aspects. The Government's response highlights a great deal of progress that has been made in establishing the new system of education and training since the publication of the committee's report.

Health: Suicide Prevention *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): My honourable friend the Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr Norman Lamb), has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I am publishing a new suicide prevention strategy for England.

Preventing Suicide in England: a Cross-Government Outcomes Strategy to Save Lives has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to honourable Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office. The document is also available at www.dh.gov.uk/health/tag/suicide-prevention/

Over the last 10 years, good progress has been made in reducing the suicide rate in England. However, there were over 4,200 suicides in 2010. That is one person dying from suicide every two hours. When someone takes their own life, the effect on their family and friends is devastating. Many others involved in providing support and care will feel the impact.

There is no single approach to preventing suicide. Effective prevention needs a broad, co-ordinated, system-wide approach, with input from a wide range of organisations. An inclusive society that avoids marginalising individuals, and which supports people at times of crisis, will help to prevent suicides. Government and statutory services also have a role to play through building individual and community resilience, ensuring that vulnerable people in the care of health and social services and at risk of suicide are supported and kept safe, and ensuring that we intervene quickly when someone is in distress or crisis.

This strategy recognises the contributions that all sectors of our society can make in preventing suicide. In particular, it sets out to:

reduce the suicide rate in the general population; and

provide better support and information to those bereaved or otherwise affected by a suicide.

We have identified six key areas for action to support delivery of these objectives:

reduce the risk of suicide in high-risk groups;

tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups;

reduce access to the means of suicide;

provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide;

support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour; and

support research, data collection and monitoring.

The strategy supports action by bringing together knowledge about groups at risk of suicide, applying evidence of what interventions are effective in preventing suicide and highlighting available resources to support action at local level. It therefore supports local decision-making, while recognising the autonomy of local organisations to decide what works in their area.

One of the main aspects of the strategy, and one of the most significant changes from the previous strategy, is the greater prominence of measures to support families—those who are worried that a loved one is at risk and those who are having to cope with the aftermath of a suicide.

In developing the strategy, the Government have built on the successes of the previous strategy, published in 2002. It has also been revised and strengthened following consultation on a draft strategy which ended in October 2011. I am grateful to the wide range of individuals and organisations that provided input to this work.

The strategy has been developed with the support of leading experts in the field of suicide prevention, including the members of the national suicide prevention strategy advisory group, under the chairmanship of Professor Louis Appleby CBE. I would like to thank all members of this group for sharing their knowledge and expertise. Their continued support and leadership is central to our efforts to prevent suicide in England.

Housing and Growth *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles) has made the following ministerial Statement.

The coalition Government's number one priority is to get the economy growing. We must create the conditions that support local economic growth and remove barriers that stop local businesses creating jobs and getting Britain building again.

In November, the Government published a comprehensive housing strategy and we have rapidly put in place measures set out in the strategy to support a thriving, active and stable housing market.

We are reforming the right to buy by significantly increasing the discounts available to tenants to buy their own home. We launched our NewBuy scheme allowing people access to mortgages with only a 5% deposit. And to unblock stalled sites with the capacity for up to 16,000 homes we launched the £570 million Get Britain Building fund. We also announced plans to dispose of public sector land with the capacity to deliver 100,000 homes, and invested £770 million in infrastructure for housing and growth through the Growing Places fund.

Housebuilding starts across England were 29% higher in 2011 compared to 2009. But there is far more to do to provide homes to meet Britain's demographic needs and to help generate local economic growth.

Increasing investment in the private rented sector

The rented sector already provides good-quality homes for many young people, professionals and families. But growth has been constrained by the lack of large-scale investment. We invited Sir Adrian Montague to report on the barriers to institutional investment and intend to take up Sir Adrian's key recommendation. Today I can announce that we will be investing £200 million in housing sites to ensure that the high-quality rented homes that are needed are available to institutional investors quickly. And we will be establishing a taskforce to bring together developers, management bodies and institutional investors to broker deals and deliver more rented homes.

The Government will also use their hard earned fiscal credibility to pass on lower costs of borrowing to support the long-term delivery of new rental homes. To give institutional investors the assurance they need to invest in this area we will be issuing a debt guarantee for up to £10 billion for this scheme and the affordable housing scheme set out below. Under the scheme, the Government will enable providers to raise debt with a government guarantee, where they commit to investing in additional new-build rented homes. From tomorrow, the Government will be inviting expressions of interest from companies wishing to benefit from the scheme. It is expected that housing associations, property management companies and developers will be among those to benefit.

Affordable housing guarantees and tackling empty homes

The need for affordable housing remains high. We will therefore be extending the use of guarantees to cover borrowing needed to deliver more affordable homes. Building on the success of the Affordable Homes programme, the Government will invite bids to provide up to an additional 15,000 affordable homes through the use of loan guarantees, asset management flexibilities and capital funding. We also intend to extend our successful refurbishment programme to bring an additional 5,000 existing empty homes back into use. In total we will invest another £300 million.

Helping first-time buyers

To complement supporting the rented sector, we also want to help those who want to get on to and move up the housing ladder.

Building on our existing schemes, we will continue to support housebuilding and to help people into home ownership through NewBuy—making it easier to access a mortgage with only a 5% deposit. We are working with the Home Builders Federation and the Council of Mortgage Lenders to increase take-up and grow the number of builders and lenders in the scheme. I welcome Monday's announcement that Aldermore has joined the scheme—taking the number of lenders up to six, over 70% of the market. Homebuilders and lenders will work together on a concerted marketing campaign over the autumn to raise consumer awareness and understanding of scheme.

We will also allocate an additional £280 million, with a matching contribution from housebuilders, to extend our very successful FirstBuy scheme to March 2014. This will allow up to 16,500 additional first-time buyers to purchase a home.

Accelerating large housing schemes

The need for new homes is acute, and supply remains constrained. There are many large housing schemes in areas of high housing demand that could provide real benefit to local communities once delivered. But large schemes are complicated and raise a wide range of complex issues that can be difficult to resolve.

Building on success in working with Kent local authorities and developers to unlock major housing opportunities at Eastern Quarry in the Ebbsfleet valley, the Government will work in partnership with local authorities, scheme promoters and communities to accelerate delivery of locally supported, major housing sites. These will be sites where there is local support for growth, strong demand for new homes, and good prospects for early delivery.

Off-site construction can create skilled jobs, improve the quality of homes and ultimately bring down costs. An industry-led group convened by the DCLG and BIS will look in detail at the barriers holding back the growth of this part of the sector and how increased use of such techniques can be incentivised. We will ask this advisory group of experts to prepare proposals by Budget 2013, with the aim of improving the efficiency of housing supply and unlocking high-value jobs in the UK.

Thanks to the Government's credible fiscal strategy, home owners are benefiting from historically low interest rates. However, the private sector needs to be able to access both finance and land to build the homes we need. The funding for lending scheme, run by the Bank of England with the approval of the Government, provides strong incentives for banks and building societies to boost lending, including mortgages and loans to businesses.

Getting surplus public sector land back into use

In response to emerging conclusions from a review chaired by Tony Pidgley, chairman of the Berkeley Group, the Government will accelerate the release of surplus public sector land by strengthening the role of Homes and Communities Agency outside London

through a targeted programme of transfers from other government departments and agencies. We will also work to accelerate disposals by preparing the land for market and providing a single "shop window" for all surplus public sector land. We will work with the Mayor of London with a view to developing a similar approach in London, and to resolve how other measures are delivered for the benefit of Londoners.

Reducing planning delays

To get more homes built—and more workshops, factories and offices—we need a planning system which works proactively to support the growth that this country needs.

The national planning policy framework is a major step forward. It has been widely welcomed by business, and as a result of its positive influence we are already seeing accelerated plan-making and more positive decision-taking.

We are clear that local people—and local authorities—must be at the heart of planning. The last Government tried top-down imposition of growth and unequivocally failed. The imposition of regional strategies built nothing but resentment, with housebuilding falling to its lowest peacetime rate since the 1920s.

The Localism Act has put the power to plan back in the hands of communities, but with this power comes responsibility: a responsibility to meet their needs for development and growth, and to deal quickly and effectively with proposals that will deliver homes, jobs and facilities.

Today we are announcing a series of additional measures to drive the effective implementation of these reforms and remove unnecessary bureaucracy that can hinder sustainable growth.

Given the importance of efficient and effective planning decisions for the economy we need to ensure that, where there are clear failures in performance, applicants are able to access a better service. We propose to legislate to allow applications to be decided by the Planning Inspectorate, if the local authority has a track record of consistently poor performance in the speed or quality of its decisions. Planning is a quasi-judicial process: justice delayed is justice denied. It is unfair to all parties for local planning authorities simply to fail to make timely decisions on a planning application—creating uncertainty both for applicants and local residents.

In support of this we will also require more transparent reporting of council performance on planning, and will be working with the Local Government Association to increase the use of planning performance agreements for major schemes—which commit both applicants and planning authorities to a clear timetable for determining proposals. In addition, we intend to give planning inspectors more power to initiate an award of costs in planning appeal proceedings, where it is clear that an application has not been handled as it should have been with due process.

Swift determination of appeals by the Planning Inspectorate is also of critical importance. We will consult shortly on options to speed up planning appeals—and for a new fast-track procedure for some small commercial appeals. I have also instructed the Planning

Inspectorate with immediate effect to divert resources to prioritise all major economic and housing-related appeals, to ensure applicants receive a response in the quickest possible time.

I have also extended a measure that allows developers the chance to seek additional time to get their sites up and running before planning permission expires, for an additional year. This measure will cut the costs of getting developments back on track.

Getting the infrastructure projects that the country's economic success relies upon under way as swiftly as possible is also a top priority. The planning regime for major infrastructure which deals with many of these cases is bedding in well and is bringing benefits through its streamlined and more certain processes. We want to ensure that this planning regime rightly focuses on the most important schemes while also extending the benefits of it to other forms of development which are of national importance.

To achieve this we now intend to review the thresholds for some of the existing categories in the regime, and also to bring new categories of commercial and business development into the regime—making it possible for such schemes, where they are of sufficient significance, to be considered and determined at a national level. We will also work to extend the principle of a one-stop-shop for non-planning consents for major infrastructure, and amend the special parliamentary procedures which apply to major infrastructure to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Reducing the cumulative burden of red tape

It is vital that the affordable housing element of Section 106 agreements negotiated during different economic conditions is not allowed to undermine the viability of sites and prevent any construction of new housing. This results in no development, no regeneration and no community benefits at all when agreements are no longer economically viable.

The Government estimate that up to 75,000 new homes are currently stalled due to site viability. Section 106 is an important tool to provide affordable housing and we welcome the flexible approach that many councils have already taken to renegotiating these agreements where necessary. The Government are also acting to get developers and councils around the table through their new mediation scheme. However, given the current imperative for growth, we need to do more.

The Government will now introduce legislation, to be effective in early 2013, which will allow any developer of sites which are unviable because of the number of affordable homes, to appeal with immediate effect. The Planning Inspectorate will be instructed to assess how many affordable homes would need to be removed from the Section 106 agreement for the site to be viable in current economic conditions. The Planning Inspectorate would then, as necessary, set aside the existing Section 106 agreement for a three-year period, in favour of a new agreement with fewer affordable homes. We would encourage councils to take the opportunity before legislation comes into effect to seek negotiated solutions where possible.

Alongside this, the Government are also consulting on legislation that would allow developers to renegotiate non-viable Section 106 agreements entered into prior to April 2010.

There is concern that the array of local and national standards used in different parts of the country is complex and counterproductive, confusing local residents, councillors and developers. I am announcing today a fundamental and urgent review led by Government working with interested parties to rationalise these standards. This review will result in a clear plan of action by next spring, including legislative approaches if a significant rationalisation cannot be agreed.

Supporting locally led development

We have previously made clear the importance we attach to delivering new large-scale settlements. The recovery criteria already includes large residential developments. To align this with the call-in process, I will also carefully consider the use of call-in for major new settlements with larger than local impacts.

To support locally led development, communities will share in benefits including the new homes bonus, community infrastructure levy contributions towards local infrastructure, and the financial benefits of business rates discounts and forthcoming business rates retention from April 2013.

The green belt is an important protection against urban sprawl, providing a “green lung” around towns and cities. The coalition agreement commits the Government to safeguarding green belt and other environmental designations, which they have been in the new national planning policy framework. The Localism Act allows for the abolition of Labour's regional spatial strategies which sought to bulldoze the green belt around 30 towns and cities across the country, subject to the strategic environmental assessment process, as outlined in my Statement of 3 September 2012, *Official Report*, column 5WS.

As has always been the case, councils can review local designations to promote growth. We encourage councils to use the flexibilities set out in the national planning policy framework to tailor the extent of green-belt land in their areas to reflect local circumstances. Where green belt is considered in reviewing or drawing up local plans, we will support councils to move quickly through the process by prioritising their local plan examinations. There is considerable previously developed land in many green-belt areas, which could be put to more productive use. We encourage councils to make best use of this land, while protecting the openness of the green belt in line with the requirements in the national planning policy framework.

Helping homeowners improve their homes

As a nation, we have great pride in our homes, and I want to make it easier for families to undertake home improvements: not just to cut red tape and strengthen individual homeowners' rights, but also to help generate economic activity which will support small traders in particular.

I am announcing today a further package of simplification measures to remove red tape and ease the burden on local authorities. We will consult shortly on changes to increase existing permitted development

rights for extensions to homes and business premises in non-protected areas for a three-year period. This will mean less municipal red tape to build a conservatory and similar small-scale home improvement and free up valuable resources in local authorities.

Getting empty offices into use

We have already undertaken a series of measures to make change of use easier, to help get empty buildings back into productive use.

We will introduce permitted development rights to enable change of use from commercial to residential purposes, while providing the opportunity for authorities to seek a local exemption where they believe there will be an adverse economic impact. This common-sense measure will help the regeneration of our towns and cities. Our high streets will benefit from a greater resident population, increasing footfall and supporting local shops.

This package of measures will ensure that the reforms which we have made to the planning system are implemented as effectively as possible, and that the planning system plays as full a role as possible in supporting local jobs and local firms.

Julian Assange Extradition Proceedings *Statement*

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): My honourable friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague) has made the following ministerial Statement.

I am writing to update the House about developments in the extradition proceedings against Mr Julian Assange, and discussions on that matter between the United Kingdom and Ecuador.

On 20 November 2010, the office of the Swedish Prosecutor-General issued a European arrest warrant for the arrest and extradition of Mr Assange, who is alleged to have committed serious sexual offences against two women during a visit to Sweden in August 2010.

Pursuant to the European arrest warrant, police officers arrested Mr Assange on 7 December 2010, who was at that time living in the United Kingdom.

On 24 February 2011, a district judge ruled that Mr Assange should be extradited to face proceedings in Sweden concerning allegations of sexual offences. Mr Assange appealed against the ruling, but on 2 November 2011 two judges at the High Court upheld the decision to extradite Mr Assange to Sweden. Mr Assange appealed again, but the Supreme Court ruled on 30 May 2012 that Mr Assange should be extradited to Sweden.

Following the ruling of the Supreme Court, Mr Assange was given two weeks to seek to reopen the appeal. On 14 June, the Supreme Court dismissed Mr Assange's bid to reopen his appeal, and conferred a two-week grace period before Her Majesty's Government could begin extradition proceedings.

Over this 15-month period, Mr Assange exercised fully his legal right to challenge the extradition procedure, with competent legal representation. Mr Assange took

his case through successive independent judicial hearings to the highest court in the United Kingdom and in the process exhausted all options of appeal in the UK.

On 19 June Mr Assange entered the embassy of Ecuador from where he asked for the protection of the Government of Ecuador. The same day, the Government of Ecuador informed Her Majesty's Government by diplomatic note that it was considering Mr Assange's request.

Following this, I asked my officials to initiate a formal, regular, dialogue with the Government of Ecuador. This included seven formal discussions as well as many other conversations and written exchanges, in order to seek an acceptable resolution to this situation.

Throughout our exchanges, we have noted that the rights of diplomatic missions conferred by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations come with responsibilities. Article 41 of the Vienna convention sets out the obligations of diplomatic missions to respect the laws and regulations of the receiving state—in this case the United Kingdom. These include the duty not to impede the due legal process of that state.

Furthermore, Her Majesty's Government have made it clear to Ecuador that we recognise that Ecuador and a number of countries in Latin America are party to the Caracas Convention on Diplomatic Asylum of 1954, and that that convention provides the right, between its state parties, to grant diplomatic asylum in certain circumstances. The United Kingdom is not party to that convention and there is no legal basis for the United Kingdom to meet the request of the Government of Ecuador to grant safe passage for Mr Assange out of the United Kingdom.

The Government of Ecuador have also sought guarantees regarding the possible onward extradition of Mr Assange to a third country, and have pointed to concerns about possible human rights implications if Mr Assange were to be extradited from the United Kingdom. In our discussions with Ecuador, we have been clear that the safeguards in place under the European Convention on Human Rights, international law, European Union law and United Kingdom law fully address the concerns raised by Mr Assange and by the Government of Ecuador.

The suggestion that there would be a risk of a breach of Mr Assange's human rights on extradition to Sweden is completely unfounded. An argument to this effect was comprehensively rejected by the courts in the United Kingdom. Both the United Kingdom and Sweden are signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights and the British Government have complete confidence in the independence and fairness of the Swedish judicial system. As we have discussed with the Government of Ecuador, the United Kingdom and Sweden robustly implement and adhere to the highest standards of human rights protection.

The suggestion that Mr Assange's human rights would be put at risk by the possibility of onward extradition from Sweden to a third country is also without foundation. Not only would Sweden—as a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights—be required to refuse extradition in circumstances which would breach his human rights, but the authorities in Sweden would also be legally obliged to seek the

United Kingdom's consent before any extradition to a non-EU member state could proceed. Our consent may only be given in accordance with the international conventions by which the UK is bound, including the European Convention on Human Rights, and also our domestic law. In practice, this means that the United Kingdom could only consent to Mr Assange's onward extradition from Sweden to a third country if satisfied that extradition would be compatible with his human rights, and that there was no prospect of a death sentence being imposed or carried out.

We have used our discussions with the Government of Ecuador to explain the issues in detail. In the context of widespread speculation that a decision to grant asylum by the Ecuadorean Government was imminent, and as part of these exchanges, on 15 August the British embassy in Quito shared with the Government of Ecuador an informal note, or aide-memoire, to set out key points of our position and ensure that the Ecuadorean authorities had a complete understanding of the full legal context. Ecuador reacted to this communication claiming that a reference to the UK's Diplomatic and Consular Premises Act 1987 constituted a threat to its embassy in London. I have been consistently clear that we are not threatening the embassy of Ecuador and that we are absolutely committed to the principles of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and always act in accordance with it.

It is a matter of regret that instead of continuing our discussions, the Foreign Minister of Ecuador announced on 16 August that Ecuador had decided to grant diplomatic asylum to Mr Assange. This was confirmed to us in a diplomatic note of 16 August.

We wish to continue our dialogue with the Government of Ecuador. We believe that our two countries should be able to find a diplomatic solution. We have invited the Government of Ecuador to resume, as early as possible, the discussions we have held on this matter to date. I confirmed that in a meeting with Ecuador's Vice-President Moreno on 29 August in London, during his visit to the Paralympics.

We continue also to discuss the matter with the Swedish authorities, which retain an interest in the completion of Mr Assange's extradition proceedings.

Nursery Milk Consultation *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (Dr Daniel Poulter) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government's consultation on the *Next Steps for Nursery Milk* is currently under way. We have received a large number of responses from a range of organisations including childcare settings, specialist milk suppliers, and milk industry.

Due to the summer break, we have been asked to provide extra time to schools and nurseries to respond to the consultation. The Government are therefore extending the consultation period for an extra six

weeks, to ensure that anyone who wants to contribute can do so. The new closing date of the consultation is Tuesday 23 October 2012.

The Government are committed to continuing the Nursery Milk Scheme. Through this consultation, we are exploring three different options for improving the operation of the scheme.

We will publish a formal response to the consultation on the future operation of the Nursery Milk Scheme taking full account of all the consultation responses.

Next Steps for Nursery Milk has already been placed in the Library.

Pensions: Automatic Enrolment Thresholds *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): My honourable friend the Minister for Pensions (Steve Webb MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that later today I will be publishing the Government's consultation on the review and revision of earning thresholds for automatic enrolment 2013/2014.

This is an annual exercise. The report sets out the context of this review, the evidence base and the proposed rates for 2013/14. We are seeking views both on the factors that should inform next year's thresholds and the proposed rates. We would welcome responses in particular that tell us more about the tax relief method that schemes are currently using.

The consultation paper will be available later today on the department's website: <http://dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2012/> and I will also place a copy in the House Library.

Personal Independence Payment *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Disability living allowance (DLA) is being replaced by a new benefit called personal independence payment (PIP) for people aged 16 to 64 from April 2013.

On 2 August 2012 we announced details of the organisations that have been successful in the competition to provide the new independent assessment services for PIP.

This announcement concluded a commercial process that began earlier this year. On 30 April the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced the 10 organisations which had been awarded a place on the framework to deliver health and disability assessments. This framework is made up of four regional lots plus a national lot, lot 5.

On 2 May the DWP invited the organisations in lots 1 to 4 to tender to deliver the PIP assessment service on behalf of the DWP and the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency. The competition selected the following bidders for each of the three regional lots:

- Lot 1 (Scotland, North East and North West England)—Atos IT Services UK Ltd
- Lot 2 (Wales and Central England)—Capita Business Services Ltd
- Lot 3 (London and Southern England)—Atos IT Services UK Ltd

The recommended supplier for lot 4 is still to be confirmed through the Northern Ireland Social Security Agency approvals process and will be announced in due course.

Police Pension Scheme *Statement*

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 27 March 2012, I issued a Written Statement to the House concerning remuneration and conditions of service in the police. Within that Statement I explained that I would put forward a proposal on long-term reform of police pensions to the Police Negotiating Board, which I did on the same day. In common with changes which have been developed across public service pension schemes, my proposal reflected the principles for reform established last year by the report of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, led by Lord Hutton.

My officials have been engaged in detailed and constructive discussions with representatives of the Police Negotiating Board since 27 March, and I have received a number of written representations from the organisations represented. Having considered the outcome of those discussions, and the representations made during this period of consultation, I am announcing today my decision for the reform design framework for police pensions. This framework sets out the Government's final position on the main elements of police pension reform and will form the basis for discussions on points of further detail in moving to implement these changes.

The main parameters of the new scheme design are set out below:

- a. a pension scheme design based on career average revalued earnings;
- b. a provisional accrual rate of 1/55.3 of pensionable earnings each year, subject to agreement on the outstanding issues;
- c. there will be no cap on how much pension can be accrued;
- d. a revaluation rate of active members' benefits in line with the consumer prices index (CPI) + 1.25%;
- e. pensions in payment and deferred benefits to increase in line with CPI;
- f. average member contributions of 13.7% from April 2015. As announced by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 20 December 2011, the Government will review the impact of the 2012-13 contribution changes, including the effect of membership opt-outs, before taking final decisions on how future increases will be delivered in 2013-14 and 2014-15, and in the

new scheme. Interested parties will have a full opportunity to provide evidence and their views to the Government as part of the review;

g. flexible retirement from the scheme's minimum pension age of 55, built around the scheme's normal pension age of 60—for all active members aged 55 or more at retirement, 2015 scheme benefits taken before normal pension age will be actuarially reduced with reference to the 2015 scheme's normal pension age, rather than the deferred pension age (ie state pension age). Those members' benefits will continue to be paid after age 60 at that actuarially reduced level;

All other members will have their 2015 scheme benefits actuarially reduced on a cost-neutral basis from the scheme's deferred pension age;

h. the normal pension age of 60 will be subject to regular review, which will also consider the linked early retirement facility described at (g). These reviews will consider the increasing state pension age and any changes to it, alongside evidence from interested parties, including staff associations and employers. It will consider if the normal pension age of 60 remains relevant, taking account of the economical, efficient and effective management of the police service, the changing profile of the workforce and the occupational demands of, and fitness standards for, police officer roles;

i. this regular review will be informed by scheme data and experience;

j. late retirement factors for members retiring from active service to be actuarially neutral from normal pension age;

k. a deferred pension age equal to the individual's state pension age;

l. optional lump sum by commutation at a rate of £12 for every £1 per annum of pension foregone in accordance with HMRC limits and regulations;

m. abatement in existing schemes to continue;

n. ill health retirement benefits to be based on the arrangements in the 2006 scheme;

o. all other ancillary benefits to be based on those contained in the 2006 scheme;

p. members rejoining after a period of deferment of less than five years can link new service with previous service, as if they had always been an active member;

q. members transferring between public service schemes would be treated as having continuous active service;

r. an employer contribution cap and floor, as described in the reform design framework.

Transitional and protection arrangements

There will be full statutory protection for accrued rights for all members as follows:

a. all benefits accrued under final salary arrangements will be linked to the member's final salary, in accordance with the rules of the member's current schemes, when they leave the reformed scheme;

b. full recognition of a member's expectation to double accrual for service accrued under the Police Pension Scheme 1987 ("the 1987 scheme"), so that a member's full continuous pensionable service upon retirement will be used to calculate an averaged accrual rate to be applied to service accrued under the 1987 scheme;

c. members of the 1987 scheme to be able to access their 1987 scheme benefits when they retire at that scheme's ordinary pension age (ie, from 30 years' pensionable service; age 50 with 25 or more years' pensionable service; or the member's voluntary retirement age), subject to abatement rules for that scheme. Pensionable service for the purpose of calculating the ordinary pension age will include any continuous pensionable service accrued under both the 1987 scheme and the 2015 scheme;

d. members of the Police Pension Scheme 2006 ("the 2006 scheme") to be able to access their benefits under that scheme when they retire at that scheme's normal pension age (ie, age 55);

e. members will continue to have access to an actuarially assessed commutation factor for benefits accrued under the 1987 scheme.

There will be statutory transitional protection for certain categories of members, as follows:

a. all active 2006 scheme members who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to their current normal pension age (ie, age 55) will see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. This protection will be achieved by the member remaining in their current scheme until they retire;

b. all active 1987 scheme members who, as of 1 April 2012, have 10 years or less to age 55 or have 10 years or less to age 48 and are 10 years or less from a maximum unreduced pension will see no change in when they can retire, nor any decrease in the amount of pension they receive at their current normal pension age. This protection will be achieved by those members remaining in their current scheme until they retire;

c. there will be a further period of tapered protection for up to four years for scheme members. Members who are within four years of qualifying for transitional protection, as of 1 April 2012, will have limited protection so that on average for every month closer to qualifying for transitional protection they gain about 53 days of protection. The period of protected service for any member under these tapering arrangements will have finished by 31 March 2022. At the end of the protected period, they will be transferred into the new pension scheme arrangements. Further details on how the tapered protection will apply are set out in the reform design framework.

Areas for further detailed discussion

As set out in the reform design framework, there will be further discussion on specific areas of detail, responding in part to issues raised during consultation with the Police Negotiating Board. In particular there will be further consideration of equalities issues that have been identified, or any which may be identified during further discussion, as well as arrangements to ensure compatibility between the new scheme design and recognised existing or future schemes for police officers exiting the service before normal pension age.

I believe this represents a fair outcome, reflecting the range of issues raised during consultation on my original proposal. This will continue to offer valuable pension arrangements for police officers which will be affordable and sustainable in the future.

The Government Actuary's Department has confirmed that this design does not exceed the cost ceiling set by the Government in my proposal of 27 March. Copies of the reform design framework and the Government Actuary's Department verification report have been placed in the Library of both Houses.

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In accordance with Sections 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, David Anderson QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2011, which I laid before the House on 26 March 2012.

I am grateful to David Anderson QC for the final report on that Act, and the control order regime it provided for. Following consultation within my department and with other relevant agencies, I am today laying before the House my response to David Anderson QC's recommendations.

Copies of the government response will be available in the Vote Office and a copy will also be placed on the Home Office website.

Now that the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 has been repealed, David Anderson QC has agreed to perform the role of independent reviewer of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011.

I am grateful to David Anderson QC for accepting this invitation and for continuing his work as reviewer of the Terrorism Acts 2000 and 2006.

Rail Franchising

Statement

Earl Attlee: My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Transport (Theresa Villiers) has made the following ministerial Statement.

On 15 August 2012 the Department for Transport announced to the London Stock Exchange that it intended to award the intercity West Coast franchise to First West Coast Limited, a subsidiary of First Group.

Bids were received from Abellio InterCity West Coast Limited—NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen, First West Coast Limited—FirstGroup plc, Keolis/SNCF West Coast Limited—Keolis SA and SNCF, Virgin Trains Limited—Virgin Group Holdings Limited.

The new franchise is planned to begin operation on Sunday 9 December 2012. The franchise will operate for a core term of 13 years and 4 months, with an option to be extended to operate for up to 15 years. The winning bid from First West Coast Limited provides for a premium of £5.5 billion NPV over the core franchise term.

The West Coast Main Line is one of the most important intercity rail passenger routes in the country and it is also a valuable public asset. Over the last decade and more, taxpayers have invested £9 billion to

upgrade the infrastructure. It is a profitable franchise for the current operator and after significant public investment in the line the Government are rightly seeking to get a substantial return for passengers and taxpayers.

The First West Coast bid provides: more trains on the route, with 12,000 extra seats per day provided by 11 new 6 carriage electric trains from December 2016 (in addition to the 106 extra Pendolino carriages currently being introduced); refurbishing the existing Pendolino and Voyager train fleets, more capacity on services between Birmingham and Scotland, and faster journey times between London Euston and Glasgow; new services to Blackpool, Bolton and Shrewsbury, subject to approval of the ORR; lower Standard Anytime fares over the first two years; £22 million in station improvements; Oyster-style smart ticketing; and, for the first time in an intercity franchise, better customer satisfaction as measured by the National Passenger Survey.

When a new franchise begins, employees of the current franchise operator, including drivers, guards and back office staff will be transferred to the new operator, protected by TUPE regulations. All of the rolling stock used by the incumbent operator will also transfer across.

Taken together, I believe that the commitments in First West Coast's bid represent significant improvements for passengers and will provide a good return for the taxpayer.

As a result of a legal challenge, which the government intends to defend robustly, we have not yet signed the contract with First West Coast, and consequently the competition remains live. I cannot give the full commercial details of the winning bid, or indeed of the other bids. Nor is it usual or appropriate—once litigation proceedings have commenced—for the Government to comment on the detail of that, other than to say that our legal advisers are fully engaged in addressing and responding to those proceedings.

I will continue to keep the House updated, subject to the constraints of legal or commercial privilege.

Reducing Audit Requirements

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable) has made the following ministerial Statement:

In October 2011, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) launched a consultation on giving more small companies and subsidiaries the ability to make a commercial decision about whether or not to have an audit. It also proposed allowing companies more flexibility to change their accounting framework.

The response to the consultation has helped the department to refine the proposals. In particular the proposals have been amended to make it easier for

parent companies that want a subsidiary to be exempt from audit to provide the requisite guarantee of the subsidiaries' liabilities.

These changes will allow 120,000 additional companies to be exempt from audit and 67,000 dormant companies to be exempt from the need to prepare and file annual accounts. There will also be increased flexibility for companies to change their accounting framework, which will enable them to take advantage of appropriately reduced disclosures.

We seek to achieve our ambition of making the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business, in part through reducing the regulatory burden on UK businesses. Thus we welcome the broad support received for the overall principle of reducing audit requirements for unlisted companies and the support for proposals which promote flexibility and prevent UK businesses from being at a disadvantage to their European competitors.

BIS is today publishing a response to the consultation, which sets out the Government's intention to introduce legislative changes to enable companies to take advantage of these changes. The proposals are deregulatory and reduce costs for business of at least £100 million per year, and possibly much more.

Legislation is expected to come into force from 1 October 2012, to be available for accounting years beginning on or after that date.

The consultation response, and the final stage impact assessments are available on the BIS website at www.bis.gov.uk/consultations.

Regional Growth Fund

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise (Michael Fallon) has today made the following Statement.

The regional growth fund (RGF) is helping to rebalance the economy by helping those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector. The fund is unlocking private sector investment in the local economy, creating jobs and making Britain open for business.

The RGF is good value for money and delivers funding to parts of the country that need it most—approximately £6 of private sector leverage for every £1 of public money.

The RGF is delivering jobs and having a positive impact on businesses: work to finalise contracts for rounds 1 and 2 is nearly complete and preparations are on track to announce round 3 awards in the autumn.

Rounds 1 and 2

Progress is good on rounds 1 and 2 with over half the bidders (127) contracted and able to draw down funding and a further 51 completing their due diligence reports. So far, agreed offers have unlocked almost 198,352 jobs.

There is now a firm and agreed position with nine in 10 bidders; they are signing up to agreed terms or withdrawing and allowing the reallocation of the fund or, in cases such as Lotus, agreeing a delay.

The priority now is to agree a way forward with the remaining few, which is being done during the autumn.

Currently 149 projects and programmes have started, unlocking almost £4.8 billion of private investment into our economy. Several companies were content to start work before receiving any funds; agreeing terms has given them the confidence to get going and start work.

The number of withdrawn projects and programmes has increased to 24 (10%). For a fund of this size this number is fairly low: withdrawals also point to the robustness of the process—something the NAO has been positive about. See annexe A for the full list.

The reasons for withdrawals vary from global market conditions; realisation from their own due diligence that the project could not be supported; to changes in senior management requiring a new strategy.

Long-term impact

All RGF projects and programmes are being monitored; this will continue for years to come, in order to understand the impact of the RGF and continue to protect taxpayers' interests. Monitoring will include an annual review of progress that will be reported to Parliament at the end of each financial year, beginning in the spring of 2013.

Round 3

The round 3 contracting process will be quicker and lessons learned from the previous rounds will be implemented. The contracting process should take no longer than six months to complete from when Ministers allocate support for the bid to the signing of final offer letters.

Of the 414 bids received in round 3, 132 have been declined, four withdrew and 278 were shortlisted. All bidders were informed of the outcome of the initial appraisal stage on 14 August.

Assessment of the 278 shortlisted bids continues and is on track for final announcements this autumn. Lord Heseltine's panel will meet this month to agree recommendations, and Ministers will meet in October to make final decisions.

Annexe A—Withdrawn projects from rounds 1 and 2

1. Ames Goldsmith UK Ltd
2. Caparo Precision Strip
3. CE3—Conitech
4. Cleveland Potash Ltd
5. CT5—Exhausto Ltd
6. CT7—Aggregate Industries Ltd
7. CT8—WD Irwin & Sons
8. CT9—Arla
9. Cumbrian Holdings
10. Diodes Zetex Semiconductors Ltd
11. Federal-Mogul Friction Product
12. Heerema Hartlepool Ltd
13. Messier-Dowty Ltd

14. Nissan UK P3
15. Pilkington United Kingdom Ltd
16. Rapisan Systems
17. Shepherd Offshore Ltd
18. Sirius Minerals
19. St Modwen Properties plc
20. T&N Plastics Ltd
21. Thales Properties Ltd (Leicester)
22. Universal Engineering
23. Vestas Technology UK Ltd
24. Zegen (Wilton) Ltd

Rwanda *Statement*

Baroness Northover: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for International Development has made the following statement.

Following my visit to the Kivus region of the Democratic Republic of Congo in July I delayed the disbursement of general budget support (GBS) to Rwanda because of concerns about the impact of the conflict on civilians in the region and reports of Rwandan involvement in the M23 mutiny. At this time I sought assurances from President Kagame that Rwanda was adhering to the strict partnership principles around GBS which I strengthened in the summer of 2011.

Rwanda has engaged constructively with the peace process initiated through the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and there is a continuing ceasefire in the Kivus. Given this progress and recognising that the Government of Rwanda has continued to demonstrate its strong commitment to reducing poverty and improving its financial management, Britain will partially restore its general budget support to Rwanda. We will now disburse half (£8 million) of the delayed GBS tranche and will reprogramme the remaining £8 million. This decision reflects our responsibility to protect the poor, but also caution as concerns remain over Rwanda's involvement with the M23 rebels. The reallocated money will be directly channelled to programmes for education and food security, to ensure that the poorest people in Rwanda are not hurt by this change. It will put over 60,000 more Rwandan children into primary school, half of whom will be girls, and increase production of key food security crops by an estimated 5,130 metric tonnes.

There are still concerns that Rwanda could do more to meet our joint partnership principles in full. This is the first of two budget support payments scheduled for the financial year 2012-13. The next disbursement is due in December 2012. A decision on that disbursement will be made in due course. The UK will continue to closely monitor the Government of Rwanda's role in bringing about peace in the eastern DRC region.

Special Educational Needs Reform *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): My right honourable friend the Minister of State for Children and Families (Sarah Teather MP) has made the following ministerial Statement:

The proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs were first set out in the special educational needs and disability Green Paper *Support and Aspiration*, published in March 2011, and the subsequent *Next Steps* document published in May this year. The reforms are being tested in 20 pathfinder areas, covering 31 local authorities and their health partners.

We have today published draft provisions to improve the support provided to those children and young people, and to their parents. These provide for:

new education, health and care plans which will ensure more streamlined and integrated support for children, young people and families than the current statement and learning difficulty assessment;

a new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services;

a requirement on local authorities to publish a local offer of services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs;

new protections for young people aged 16-25 in further education and a stronger focus on preparing them for adulthood;

parents and young people, for the first time, to be entitled to have a personal budget, extending their choice and control over their support; and

further education colleges for the first time and all academies, including free schools, to have the same duties as maintained schools to safeguard the education of children and young people with SEN.

Previously further education colleges had not been subject to SEN duties. The provisions relating to academies reflect the requirements currently in the majority of funding agreements signed since the introduction of the Academies Act 2010. Placing these requirements on the face of the legislation will give greater clarity to academies, parents and young people and will ensure further education colleges face the same requirements for the first time. The draft provisions would ensure that parents, young people and children are on the same footing whether they attend (or wish to attend) a maintained school, an academy, or a further education or sixth form college.

The Government look forward to receiving views and feedback on the draft clauses, whilst we continue to learn from our pathfinder programme, before introducing legislation at a later date.

With the Ministry of Justice, we are also publishing a number of draft clauses relating to family justice and will make a further statement after the close of the current consultation on co-operative parenting.

Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Section 19(1) of the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (the Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of her TPIM powers under the Act during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

TPIM notices in force (as of 31 August 2012)	9
TPIM notices in respect of British citizens (as of 31 August 2012)	9
Variations made to measures specified in TPIM notices	27
Applications to vary measures specified in TPIM notices refused	12

During the reporting period: no TPIM notices were imposed; no TPIM notices were extended; no TPIM notices were revoked; and no TPIM notices were revived. A TPIM Review Group (TRG) keeps every TPIM notice under regular and formal review. The TPIM Review Group met twice during this reporting period.

One individual was charged in relation to an offence under Section 23 of the Act (contravening a measure specified in a TPIM notice without reasonable excuse) during the period.

Section 16 of the 2011 Act provides rights of appeal against decisions by the Secretary of State in relation to decisions taken under the Act. No appeals were lodged under Section 16 during the reporting period.

Three judgments have been handed down by the High Court in relation to the review of TPIM notices under Section 9 of the Act. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v BF* [2012] EWHC 1718 (admin), handed down on 25 June 2012, the High Court upheld the TPIM notice imposed on BF. On 6 July 2012, in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AM* [2012] EWHC 1854 (admin), the High Court upheld the TPIM notice imposed on AM and the renewal of the control order which preceded it, with a minor amendment to one measure. AM has applied to the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal this judgment. On 19 July 2012, in *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AY* [2012] EWHC 2054 (admin), the High Court upheld the TPIM notice and dismissed the appeal against the renewal of the control order which preceded it. Most full judgments are available at <http://www.bailii.org/>.

Damages Act 1996: Discount Rate *Statement*

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Jonathan Djanogly), has made the following ministerial Statement:

On 1 August 2012 the Ministry of Justice, the Scottish Government and the Department of Justice, Northern Ireland, jointly published a consultation paper, *Damages Act 1996: The Discount Rate—How Should it be Set?* (CP12/2012).

The paper seeks views on how the Lord Chancellor in relation to England and Wales, Scottish Ministers in relation to Scotland and the Department of Justice

in Northern Ireland in relation to Northern Ireland should set the rate of return to be prescribed under Section 1 of the Damages Act 1996.

The prescribed rate is taken into account by the court in determining the return to be expected from the investment of a sum awarded as damages for future pecuniary loss in actions for personal injury. This rate of return is referred to as “the discount rate” and is currently 2.5%.

The consultation period is 12 weeks from and including 1 August. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also available online at www.justice.gov.uk/consultations.

Independently of this consultation and the review of the amount of the prescribed discount rate of which it forms part, the Ministry of Justice intends to issue a consultation paper in the autumn of 2012 to review the present legal basis for the setting of the rate in England and Wales. The consultation will seek views on whether the restrictions on the factors that can be taken into account in prescribing a rate under Section 1 of the Damages Act 1996 are still appropriate.

Statements received between Monday 10 September and Monday 17 September 2012

Armed Forces: Chief Coroner

Statement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Helen Grant) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

My right honourable friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the following Statement to the House regarding investigations into service personnel who have died overseas.

On 24 September 2012 the Government will commence powers under Sections 12 and 50 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 to enable for the first time deaths of service personnel killed abroad to be investigated in Scotland under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Act 1976 where appropriate

His Honour Judge Peter Thornton QC, who has today assumed the role of Chief Coroner of England and Wales will be able to recommend that investigations be transferred from England and Wales in appropriate circumstances, for example where the deceased’s family is based in Scotland.

The provisions aim to reduce the additional distress that can be caused by ensuring that bereaved service families from Scotland do not have to travel long distances to England or Wales to attend an inquest.

Armed Forces: Invincible Class Carriers

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): My honourable friend the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Philip Dunne) made the following Written Ministerial Statement on 10 September:

I can today announce our plans to preserve the legacy of the Royal Navy’s Invincible Class aircraft carriers.

The three Invincible Class aircraft carriers—HMS “Invincible” (in service July 1980), HMS “Ark Royal” (in service November 1985) and HMS “Illustrious” (in service June 1982)—served this country with great distinction having played key roles in conflicts in the Falkland Islands, Iraq and Bosnia. The last of these, HMS “Illustrious”, is due to retire from the Royal Navy in 2014.

After that date and in recognition of the service given by these ships in protecting the UK over the last 30 years, it is our preference to see HMS Illustrious preserved intact as a lasting tribute to the Service personnel who served on all three of the carriers.

In early 2014 we intend to hold an Industry Day to launch a competition for the innovative re-use of the ship to which interested parties will be encouraged to attend. We will invite a range of organisations, including private sector companies, charities and trusts to put forward viable proposals to ensure that HMS Illustrious remains intact and available for future private use while still offering taxpayers value for money.

Armed Forces: Reserve Forces

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): My right honourable friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Andrew Robathan) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

On 16 February 2012, an order was made under Section 56(1A) of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable 2,100 reservists to be brought into permanent service as part of defence’s contribution to the safety and security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On 7 August 2012, authority was granted to raise the number of reservists to 2,300. In total 2,258 reservists were brought into permanent service. Some provided specialist capabilities and expertise to defence’s support to the police and other civil and Olympic authorities, while the majority formed part of the support to Olympic venue security operations; a substantive contribution to what has widely been acknowledged as a successful and positive opportunity to interact with the British public and advertise the nation’s strengths to overseas observers. The order ceases to have effect on 20 September 2012.

Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): I wish to clarify an answer I gave on 23 July when Grand Committee was considering the Assets of Community Value Regulations.

The Assets of Community Value Regulations which will introduce the Community Right to Bid create rights for two different categories of local groups. First, local voluntary or community bodies (which are broadly defined) will be able to nominate assets to be listed. However, only those local groups which meet the strict requirements to be a community interest group will have the right to trigger the full moratorium period of six months after the owner has notified an intention to make a relevant disposal. Community interest groups also count as voluntary or community bodies, so can nominate land for listing.

The noble Baroness, Lady Thornton, asked whether unincorporated community groups can bid for assets. In reply I said that the only people who can make a bid or take the process forward are the community interest groups, because they are properly formed and incorporated. While it is true that these groups may make a bid, this answer inadvertently gave a too limited impression of the benefit of the policy, because in fact any person or group is entitled to make a bid to purchase a building or land which is listed as asset of community value. However, only a community interest group may trigger the full six-month moratorium period.

The Community Right to Bid in England brings together provisions in Chapter 3 Part 5 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012. In light of the fact that this is a new scheme it is important that there is clarity on what rights and responsibilities this scheme confers on owners of listed assets, local authorities and the voluntary and community sector.

Audit Exemptions

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Dr Vince Cable) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On Thursday 6 September 2012 I laid a Written Statement before the House about the publication that day of the Government's response to the October 2011 consultation on Audit Exemptions and Change of Accounting Framework.

That Statement included an explanation that the legislative changes to enable companies to take advantage of the new and increased audit exemptions would come into force from 1 October 2012, to be available for accounting years beginning on or after that date.

Regulations have now been made introducing those legislative changes. However, in fact the exemptions will be available for accounting years ending on or after 1 October 2012. The regulations are the Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (Accounts and Audit Exemptions and Change of Accounting Framework) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No. 2301).

Boundary Commission for Wales

Statement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I should like to inform the House that I have made the following appointment under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

The Honourable Mr Justice Wyn Williams is appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Boundary Commission for Wales effective until 30 September 2015.

Cold Weather Payment Scheme 2012-13

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): My honourable friend the Minister for Pensions (Steve Webb) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that later today we intend to lay regulations to amend the Cold Weather Payment scheme. The changes detailed in these regulations will come into force on 1 November this year, in time for the beginning of the winter period.

Following advice from the Meteorological Office the amendments will introduce one new weather station, Rostherne, to the scheme for winter 2012-13 and withdraw the current station at Woodford. As a result of the changes the postcodes that are currently linked to the withdrawn station will be re-assigned to different weather stations.

The new station has been chosen to maintain weather station to postcode links that are at least as representative as the current arrangement.

I am writing to each Member who made representations about the administration of the scheme last winter to make them aware of the advice from the Meteorological Office.

Cold Weather Payments are separate from, and in addition to, Winter Fuel Payments.

The amendments resulted from the department's annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme. The review drew on expert advice from the Meteorological Office and took account of representations from benefit claimants and Members of Parliament.

For winter 2012-13 the Cold Weather Payment rate will continue to be £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather.

Crime: Surveillance Cameras

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Jeremy Browne) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today announcing arrangements for the implementation of provisions within the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 for the regulation of surveillance camera systems.

The Government support the use of surveillance cameras in tackling crime. They are committed to ensuring that any deployment in public places of surveillance cameras, including CCTV and ANPR, is appropriate, proportionate, transparent and effective

in meeting its stated purpose. This is why the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 now requires government to put in place a regulatory framework for surveillance camera systems comprising a code of practice and a surveillance camera commissioner.

The code of practice will contain guidance for system operators. Relevant authorities specified in Section 33(5) of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 have a duty to have regard to the code, and other system operators will be encouraged to adopt it on a voluntary basis. Preparatory work on the code of practice is underway, ensuring it is positioned appropriately alongside existing regulatory arrangements under the Data Protection Act 1990 and the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. We anticipate a period of statutory consultation over the draft code of practice in the autumn of 2012 in advance of laying the draft before Parliament for approval. Subject to parliamentary approval, we aim to bring the code of practice into force from April 2013.

A key element of the effectiveness of surveillance camera systems is their ability to provide images and associated information of an evidential standard which supports both the investigation of crime and bringing perpetrators to justice. We are therefore continuing the arrangements that have seen the role of Interim CCTV Regulator combined with that of the Forensic Science Regulator, and are appointing Mr Andrew Rennison who currently holds both these appointments as Surveillance Camera Commissioner with immediate effect. This will enable him to build the necessary capacity to fulfil his statutory functions in full when the code of practice comes into force.

The term of appointment has been synchronised with that of the Forensic Science Regulator and will run until 10 February 2014. An open competition will be held in due course to fill both posts from that date.

The functions of the commissioner are set out in Section 34(2) of the Protection of Freedoms Act. In advance of the code of practice being brought into force the commissioner has been tasked with: delivering a three year business plan setting out how these functions will be fulfilled; reaching an agreement over the operation of gateways with both the Information Commissioner and the Chief Surveillance Commissioner who also have regulatory responsibilities relating to surveillance cameras, and then making that agreement publicly available; and, establishing an advisory council with a suitable range of skills and experience to support him in his work.

The Home Office is making a small team of civil servants available to support the commissioner in carrying out his functions, along with accommodation within its offices at 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 provides for an incremental approach to regulation which will secure continued public confidence in the use of surveillance cameras in what is a complex area of practice. It gives the commissioner no powers of enforcement or inspection, nor any powers for the investigation of complaints. The commissioner is, however, charged with reviewing the operation of the code of practice and providing advice, including advice to government on its effectiveness

and on any changes which may be necessary. The commissioner is, therefore, empowered to make independent and transparent recommendations to government on the development of the regulatory framework.

The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 also requires in Section 35 that the commissioner publishes a report about the exercise of his functions on an annual basis and presents a copy to the Home Secretary, which must then be laid before Parliament.

Through these arrangements, we intend to ensure that surveillance camera systems continue to be an important tool available to communities to help tackle crime and prevent terrorism while balancing public safety objectives with the individual's right to privacy.

Disability: Fulfilling Potential *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): My honourable friend the Minister for Disabled People (Ms Esther McVey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am pleased to announce that later today we will publish two documents as part of our disability strategy, *Fulfilling Potential*. These set out how the Government will work in partnership with others to enable disabled people to achieve their aspirations and play a full role in society.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games have challenged outdated perceptions of disabled people. They have provided a platform for greater understanding and inclusion, and a stronger focus on ability rather than disability. *Fulfilling Potential* will build on this and is about making the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People a living reality for disabled people in Britain today.

Last December we invited disabled people to help shape a new cross-government disability strategy. We received an overwhelming response.

Fulfilling Potential: The Discussions So Far summarises the issues raised, and shows how actions are already being taken across Government to address many of the issues.

We will also publish *Fulfilling Potential: Next Steps*, which will take us further forward. It sets out our vision and principles; outlines further public sector reforms; and announces a new disability action alliance, involving organisations from across the private, public and voluntary and community sectors.

Convened by Disability Rights UK and supported by the Office for Disability Issues, the alliance will put disabled people and their organisations in influential roles. It will lead the way in promoting local communities which include disabled people, and identify action to change attitudes and behaviours, increase choice and control and encourage early interventions to support independent living.

We will continue to work with disabled people and publish in the autumn, an analysis of the latest statistics and research, to help build a deeper understanding of disability in our society today; and in 2013 a further strategic document and action plan.

I will place a copy of both documents in the House Library later today.

Employment Law

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, (Dr Vince Cable) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The coalition Government made a commitment to review employment legislation to ensure it provides the flexibility for employers without compromising fairness for employees. We have reported to Parliament at various points during the course of the Employment Law Review and the Employment-related law Red Tape Challenge, the steps we are taking to reform UK employment legislation.

The Government have already taken significant steps in reforming employment law including extending the period for eligibility for unfair dismissal from one to two years, streamlining Employment Tribunals, creating a universally portable Criminal Records Bureau check and removing the default retirement age.

We are today taking a number of further steps which will lead to further changes and reforms that will help reduce burdens on, and increase certainty for, businesses, especially small businesses. We are seeking to address both the perception and the realities of the burden of employment legislation through the Employment Law Review, and are implementing a strong package of reforms. The set of measures which we are announcing today respond to business concerns that we need to do more to help them tackle issues at the end of the employment life cycle. Building on work that has already been implemented, such as the doubling of the qualifying period for unfair dismissal from one year to two years, we are now seeking to put in place a range of further measures to help businesses to effectively deal with dismissal, which will:

- create certainty about employers' liabilities;
- provide clarity on dismissal and tribunal processes; and
- give business confidence to use settlement agreements to end employment relationships where this is necessary thereby avoiding the tribunal process completely.

These measures will reduce risks to employers, increase their flexibility to deal with workplace issues and decrease the costs of resolving disputes. Business will have the support to resolve workplace disputes earlier and, if they proceed to employment tribunal, they will experience a quicker, more efficient process.

Publishing a Consultation (Ending the Employment Relationship) to support the use of Settlement Agreements and reduce the Unfair Dismissal compensation cap:

We are already taking a power in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (ERR) Bill to facilitate the greater use of Settlement Agreements, and to amend the cap on Unfair Dismissal awards. This consultation will seek views on the principles underpinning the use of Settlement Agreements, guidance on their use and model documents for use by employers.

The consultation will also propose reducing the Unfair Dismissal compensation cap, including the option of a cap of 12 months' pay alongside an upper limit.

This maximum level rose significantly under the previous administration. Our proposed changes will give business certainty about the maximum possible liability in respect of an individual unfair dismissal claim (e.g. someone who is paid £20,000 cannot be awarded more than £20,000).

Statements received between Monday 3 September and Monday 10 September 2012 Publishing the Government Response to the call for evidence on dismissal and the idea of compensated no fault dismissal

Following analysis of the submissions and of international dismissal regulations, we have decided that we will not be pursuing the idea of compensated no fault dismissal.

There were more than 250 responses to the Call for Evidence. The majority of respondents did not support no-fault dismissal and fewer than 40% of employers thought that it would be beneficial to business. Concerns were raised about the potential negative consequences of the proposal, including the potential for it to damage employee morale (which in turn could decrease productivity) and the risk that micro businesses would find it more difficult to recruit. Furthermore, no fault dismissal would not protect an employer from discrimination claims and so would not secure peace of mind.

In contrast, respondents were almost universally positive towards settlement agreements, as this tool settles all claims giving employers confidence to resolve problems quickly.

The issue of no-fault dismissal has been subject to much debate in the press over recent months. Officials have examined the responses carefully, alongside assessing international comparisons, and summarised the feedback and our analysis in the government response. The Government have considered, or is already taking forward, the majority of proposals from Adrian Beecroft's report on employment law, published earlier this year.

The call for evidence also considered the ACAS Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievance. A number of issues were raised and we will work with ACAS to ensure these are addressed. In particular, there is a need to make the Code more accessible to small business and clarify how their size and resources should be taken into account. This includes making it clear that small businesses can move straight to a final warning if an issue is having a serious impact on their business. The Government are amending the Business Link guidance to more accurately reflect the contents of the ACAS Code and Guidance. The revised guidance will be published shortly.

Publishing a consultation on the recommendations following the Fundamental Review of Employment Tribunal Rules by Mr Justice Underhill:

Mr Justice Underhill has made a number of recommendations to simplify and streamline the employment tribunals system. We are today launching a ten-week consultation. That would allow us to implement changes to the rules through secondary legislation next year.

In addition to the consultation will be introducing amendments to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill to implement three of the additional recommended changes to primary legislation identified by Mr Justice Underhill.

Publishing the Government's response to the call for evidence on TUPE, and commitment to consult on potential changes:

The call for evidence closed earlier this year, and we have completed our analysis of the responses. These broadly reflect a number of common concerns from business and business organisations, for example that:

employee liability information should be provided by the transferring organisation earlier than 14 days before transfer;

there is no provision for the post-transfer harmonisation of terms and conditions of employment with existing employees;

the regulations gold plate the Acquired Rights Directive by including service provision changes in the scope; and

pensions are a concern in transfer situations for various reasons. (Pensions legislation is being reviewed separately under the Red Tape Challenge.)

We will be publishing the government response to the call for evidence and signalling our intention to consult on potential changes. We will be developing proposals for a consultation later in the autumn.

Also in line with the introduction of employment tribunal fees next year, the Government will extend the current HM Courts and Tribunals Service system to protect access to justice for those who cannot afford to pay the fee. Given the concerns raised by business respondents to the employment tribunal fees consultation, such as whether to take into account access to savings and capital, the Government will undertake a review of remissions as part of a wider review required for the introduction of Universal Credit. The review will aim to produce a single remissions system for courts and tribunals which is simpler to use, more cost efficient and better targeted those who can afford to pay fees do so, while continuing to provide access to the courts and tribunal system to those who cannot.

Estate Agency Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My honourable friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Consumers Affairs (Jo Swinson) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today publishing the Government's response to consultations on amending the Estate Agents Act 1979 (EAA) and repealing the Property Misdescriptions Act 1991 (PMA). A limited deregulation of the EAA to take private sale intermediaries out of scope of the Act will provide clarity which the Government expect will also promote competition and potentially innovation, while retaining adequate consumer protection. Repeal of the PMA will remove duplication with the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs).

Amending the Estate Agents Act 1979

The amendment to the EAA arose from the Disruptive Business Models theme of the Red Tape Challenge process. It will end the perceived uncertainty, confirmed by the range of views in the consultation about the

scope of the legislation, about whether the activities of intermediary businesses such as private sales portals fall within the strict legal definition of "estate agency work" in the EAA. Such portals provide a platform for private sellers to display property details, some provide information about the buying and selling process and some provide tools to allow the buyer to communicate with the seller.

The Government's view is that some private sale portals may currently be in scope of the EAA, if they act on instructions of the prospective seller or buyer and provide a means for the prospective seller and buyer to make initial contact or to continue to communicate with one another. This is because although publishing advertisements and disseminating information is exempted from the scope of the EAA, facilitating such communication goes beyond this even though it may not amount to any of the services traditionally associated with estate agents.

Taking the consultation responses into account, the Government believe that a limited deregulation of the EAA would bring benefits to consumers and to the industry without reducing consumer protection. It should provide confidence to existing private sales intermediary businesses and potential new entrants, thereby stimulating competition and innovation leading to more consumer choice and better standards of service. The Government recognise that property sales are significant and occasional transactions for consumers with a risk of consumer detriment if businesses which influence or are directly involved transactions are not regulated. The Government believe that a limited amendment to legislation, combined with guidance, will provide clarity and draws the appropriate balance between the interests of businesses and consumers.

The Government have therefore decided to amend the EAA to take out of scope intermediaries such as private sale portals which merely enable private sellers to advertise their properties and provide a means for sellers and buyers to contact and communicate with one another. The Government recognise this is a limited amendment—many respondents have commented that the choice for consumers to sell property privately already exists—but the Government are concerned by the uncertainty and range of views as to the legal position of private sales portals that the responses demonstrated.

This amendment will enable the intermediary to provide a means for the seller and prospective buyer to contact one another, for example online, a branded For Sale board to the seller to assist this process, and to pass on to a buyer solely the information provided by the seller in their advertisement, by whatever channel of communication. If, however, the intermediary offers any personal advice to a seller or a buyer or other ancillary services such as preparing property particulars or photographs or an Energy Performance Certificate, then the intermediary will be in scope of the EAA and bound by its obligations.

Businesses outside the scope of the EAA will also be out of scope of the PMA (although see below). The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (CPRs) applies to all businesses that deal with consumers. They could therefore be relevant where a

private individual uses a private sales portal to advertise a property. The degree of due diligence that the CPRs require from such businesses is proportionate to the level of service offered.

The definition of “estate agency work” is also incorporated in other legislation. The Money Laundering Regulations 2007 require estate agents to guard against and report any suspicion of money laundering. The Terrorism Act 2000 and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 incorporate the definition from the EAA in applying particular standards to ‘regulated sectors’ which include estate agents. The limited amendment will also apply to these pieces of legislation.

The Government believe this limited amendment will strike the right balance between deregulating low risk services which do not actively involve the business in the property transaction and retaining the consumer protections of the EAA where agents act on behalf of a party to the transaction.

The next step will be for the proposed amendment to be subjected to parliamentary scrutiny and the Government intend to bring forward the amendment as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Repealing the Property Misdescriptions Act 1991

The PMA makes it an offence to make false or misleading statements in the course of an estate agency or property development business about property offered for sale. The CPRs which came into force in 2008 implemented the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive in the UK. These regulations provide similar protections for consumers in a wider range of sectors and their introduction meant that consumers were protected by two broadly equivalent pieces of legislation.

The Government’s consultation elicited responses both for and against repeal. The Government understand the reasons why opponents to repeal of the PMA favour it over the CPRs. The PMA deals specifically with property and as such is easy to apply. The CPRs by contrast are not specific to the sector and, being principles-based, require traders to consider how they apply to their particular circumstances.

The Government remain of the view, however, that the CPRs provide broadly similar protection to the PMA. The queries and concerns raised are similar to those that were raised when the CPRs were first proposed and these fears do not seem to have materialised in other sectors. The Government believe this situation will continue so long as the PMA remains in place and that repealing the PMA would not significantly reduce levels of consumer protection. This is disputed by some stakeholders but not others and the Government do not find the arguments for a loss of consumer protection convincing.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills will therefore lay an order under the European Communities Act 1972 to repeal the PMA. The current intention is that this will come into force not before October 2013.

Revised guidance for businesses and consumers will be produced to cover these changes.

Fuel Statement

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I am publishing our response to the comments received in the consultation on our proposals to implement Articles 7a to 7e of the EU Fuel Quality Directive (Directive 98/70/EC as amended by Directive 2009/30/EC). The directive requires suppliers to reduce the lifecycle greenhouse gas intensity of many transport fuels.

The response sets out our decision to introduce new secondary legislation to transpose requirements of the Fuel Quality Directive, including new annual reporting requirements for fossil fuels and biofuels.

The document also details our commitment to amend the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (“RTFO Order 2007”) to include fuels used in non-road mobile machinery, a policy already announced to the House on July 16 when the department published a related consultation response (Official Report, 16.7.12, col. *WS 112*).

An amendment made in December 2011 to the RTFO Order 2007 means that only biofuels meeting minimum sustainability criteria count towards renewable energy targets. Sustainable biofuels play an important role in our efforts to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. However, concerns remain about the sustainability of some biofuels, especially around the issue of indirect land use change (“ILUC”) and we are pressing the European Commission and other member states to produce a robust method to address this issue. Pending that clarity we are taking a cautious approach to implementing the Fuel Quality Directive.

The Fuel Quality Directive introduces the requirement for many transport fuel suppliers to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the fuels they supply by 6% in 2020. We will not impose on suppliers a greenhouse gas reduction obligation at this point. Instead, we will place an ongoing legal duty on the Secretary of State to propose any further measures necessary to ensure delivery of the requirements of the Fuel Quality Directive. We will rely on the amended RTFO Order 2007 to deliver the greenhouse gas savings necessary under the Fuel Quality Directive for the period up to 2014. We will also put in place a requirement for fuel suppliers to report on the greenhouse gas intensity of both the biofuel and fossil fuels they supply for use in land-based transport and for the associated uses listed in the directive.

This approach allows us to transpose the Fuel Quality Directive at the minimum cost to UK business.

I would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation.

Health: Alcohol Strategy Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Anna Soubry) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

We are today laying before Parliament the *Government Response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report of Session 2010-12: Government's Alcohol Strategy (Cm 8439)*.

The committee gave a positive welcome overall to the Government's alcohol strategy and welcomed in particular the decision to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. The committee made some important points about the need to set out the evidence behind this policy and its implementation. We will address these points when we consult on the level of minimum unit price and other proposals set out in the strategy during the autumn.

We welcome the committee's argument that the alcohol industry's participation in the Responsibility Deal is "intrinsic to responsible corporate citizenship". We fully agree with the committee that it is not a substitute for government policy.

We are committed to reversing the long term rise in both health and social harms from alcohol misuse and have set out in the strategy a number of challenging ambitions by which our success will be judged.

We welcome the committee's support for effective local action, such as that in Birmingham, and the opportunity they recognize for local authorities and others, supported by Public Health England, to address the serious problems caused by alcohol misuse in local communities.

Today's publication is in the Library. Copies are available from the Vote Office to honourable Members and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

Judiciary: Judicial Diversity Taskforce

Statement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My right honourable friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Grayling) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

The Judicial Diversity Taskforce has today published its second report, which outlines the progress achieved over the last year in driving forward change in this area.

In 2010, the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity made a number of recommendations aimed at increasing the diversity of the judiciary and legal professions, in response to concerns that the judiciary did not reflect the make-up of society. The Judicial Diversity Taskforce, comprising the Ministry of Justice, senior members of the judiciary, the Judicial Appointments Commission, the Bar Council, the Law Society and Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, was set up to take those recommendations forward.

Significant progress has been made by members of the taskforce, having already completed 20 of the 53 recommendations. The taskforce's recent achievements include:

- sharing diversity data and using it to develop a baseline against which to measure progress in increasing diversity;

- opportunities for judicial office being more widely promoted to eligible members of the legal profession, and applicants being offered more robust support throughout the process;

- innovative outreach activities being held to help dispel the myths surrounding the appointments process; and

- proposals being included in the Crime and Courts Bill to introduce flexible working patterns into the senior courts, and enabling the JAC to appoint a candidate from an under-represented group when two candidates are equal on merit.

Even though we are making good progress, all members of the taskforce recognise that there is still a lot of work to be done and we must not lose this momentum. We will continue to work together to implement the remainder of the recommendations and provide strong leadership so that we start to see real change in this area.

Copies of the progress report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The document is also available online, at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policy/moj/improving-judicial-diversity-judicial-diversity-taskforce-annual-report>.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Business and Enterprise (Michael Fallon) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

BIS Minister of State for Business and Enterprise (Michael Fallon) and the DCLG Minister of State for Housing (Mark Prisk) are today announcing that £25 million of government funding will be made available to support local enterprise partnerships in their pursuit of economic growth.

Government's goal is to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth across the UK. Local enterprise partnerships are central to our approach to driving local economic growth and for ensuring that every locality is able to fulfil its potential. Local enterprise partnerships are voluntary partnerships of business and civic leaders, working across local economic areas, and have a vitally important role in identifying opportunities for private sector growth and addressing local barriers to growth through the united efforts of their partners.

Local enterprise partnerships have also been encouraged to identify local barriers to growth where government action can address some of the specific barriers. Ministers across government are committed to supporting local enterprise partnerships achieve their local growth priorities and tackle the barriers to progress.

In response to recent strong representations, BIS and DCLG have decided to offer jointly up to £250,000 per annum of matched core funding to local enterprise partnerships for the remainder of this Parliament (until 2014-15), subject to satisfactory proposals being received. We will offer each local enterprise partnership a one-off initial payment of £125,000 for the remainder

of this financial year to provide immediate support, with subsequent years' funding dependent on matched funding from local partners. Where matched by funds locally the overall funding pot could equate up to £45 million over this period. With this offer of core resources, local enterprise partnerships will be asked to ensure that they have a clear set of priorities for local growth in place.

Local enterprise partnerships will remain voluntary business and civic partnerships to drive sustainable private sector growth and job creation in their area. This offer of core resource funding will provide more capacity for local enterprise partnerships to drive forward their growth priorities, allow them to do longer-term resource planning and strengthen support and autonomy of the business-led boards.

Transport: Bus Subsidy *Statement*

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In March, the Government published *Green Light for Better Buses*, in which we set out our plans for improving local bus subsidy arrangements and regulations in England outside London. We undertook to consult on these proposals and I can inform the House that the consultation has been launched today and will last for eight weeks. Copies of the consultation document are available in the House Library.

Transport: Railway Stations *Statement*

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I would like to inform the House of the decision that has been made in relation to London Midland's application to change Schedule 17 of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA), which was referred to the Department for Transport for arbitration.

The TSA sets out the various arrangements between train operators relating to the carriage of passengers and the retailing of tickets. London Midland's proposal was to change the minimum opening hours of a number of ticket offices, including the closure of nine offices altogether. These changes would not affect the level of train services in any way.

I have decided to approve London Midland's proposal in part, but reject some elements where the case for changes has not been made. Ticket offices at Small Heath, Jewellery Quarter, Bescot Stadium, Duddleston and Adderley Park, which were proposed for closure, will remain open. However, I have agreed four of the nine proposed ticket office closures, at Wythall, Witton, Lye and Cheddington.

Several ticket offices will have their opening hours extended, while a number of other stations will have their ticket office opening hours reduced. A full list of the changes has been published on the department's website.

In arbitrating this decision, we were careful to ensure that the proposal was in line with the criteria set out in the TSA, whereby passengers continue to

enjoy widespread and easy access to the purchase of rail products, and that the proposal represents an improvement in terms of quality of service and/or cost-effectiveness.

I have also ensured that no particular group of rail users is affected disproportionately by the changes, particularly passengers with disabilities.

The changes reflect the change in the way passengers are buying tickets, with more choosing to purchase their tickets online or at ticket vending machines, and the changes that have been approved will not generally affect stations during periods in which the ticket office is currently selling more than 12 tickets an hour.

As a condition of the changes, London Midland will also be required to provide a total of 29 additional ticket vending machines at stations that do not currently have this facility. This will be an improvement in availability at stations where the ticket office is currently only open part-time, with passengers in future able to purchase tickets whenever they wish to travel.

We have also ensured that London Midland will keep lifts in operation when stations are unstaffed. LM will also improve safety and security at stations, including through the provision of upgraded CCTV at 11 stations and will provide additional shelters and upgraded signage as a condition of this approval.

In addition, London Midland will invest in 30 new train boarding ramps to improve access to trains for wheelchair users. Passengers who require assistance in making their journey can now book this via the new industry website, which was launched by the Association of Train Operating Companies on 24 August.

There are currently many ticket offices open for very long hours, while selling very few tickets indeed. In an era where passengers are telling us that they need fares to come down and investment in services to rise, these sorts of costs simply cannot be justified.

These changes will provide savings to taxpayers and passengers far beyond the life of the existing franchise, and will ultimately save millions of pounds. I believe that this is a necessary step in improving the efficiency of the rail network, and reducing the cost of rail travel for everyone.

Terrorism Act 2000: Schedule 7 *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My right honourable friend the Home Secretary (Theresa May) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today launching a public consultation inviting views on potential changes to the counter-terrorism border security powers contained in Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000.

Individuals who engage in terror-related activity travel across borders to plan, finance, train for and commit attacks. Examining people at ports and airports is necessary to protect public safety and an essential part of our border security arrangements. However, the operation of these powers must not erode the freedoms which terrorists seek to undermine.

We would welcome a wide response to the consultation to support us in ensuring the changes address these principles, particularly from those who may be affected by the use of these important powers. A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the House Library and is available on the Home Office website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/schedule-7-review>.

Work Capability Assessment: Cancer Treatment Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): My honourable friend the Minister for Employment (Mark Hoban MP) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Today I will be publishing the government response to the consultation—*Work Capability Assessment: Accounting for the Effects of Cancer Treatment*.

I strongly support the principle of the Work Capability Assessment and am committed to continuously improving the assessment process to ensure it is as fair and as accurate as possible.

We have a statutory commitment to an annual independent review of the Work Capability Assessment for the first five years of its operation and appointed Professor Malcolm Harrington in June 2010 to start these reviews.

Professor Harrington has to date carried out two independent reviews of the Work Capability Assessment and is currently undertaking a third. As part of his second independent review Professor Harrington asked Macmillan Cancer Support to look in detail at how the Work Capability Assessment assesses people with cancer in order to provide him with evidence for further recommendations for improvement.

As a result of the evidence received from Macmillan we decided to conduct an informal consultation to seek a wider range of views and evidence. The consultation, *Work Capability Assessment: Accounting for the Effects of Cancer Treatment*, was announced on 24 November 2011 as part of the Government's Response to Professor Harrington's second review.

Today's document outlines the responses received to that consultation and provides further information on how we intend to change the way the Work Capability Assessment works for people receiving cancer treatment based on consideration of those responses.

The revised proposals expand the categories of cancer treatments under which a claimant may be treated as having limited capability to undertake work-related activity to now include individuals who are: awaiting, receiving or recovering from treatment by way of chemotherapy irrespective of route; or awaiting, receiving or recovering from radiotherapy.

I will place a copy of the full government response to the consultation in the House Library and it will also be available later today at www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations.

Statements received between Monday 17 September and Monday 24 September 2012

Afghanistan Statement

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the 20th progress report on developments in Afghanistan since November 2010.

On 8 July at the Tokyo Conference the international community, including the UK, agreed to help the Government of Afghanistan meet their country's development needs for the years up to and after security transition in 2014. Specific pledges were made to 2017, with strong commitments from the international community to provide financial assistance to Afghanistan through the "Transformation Decade" to the end of 2024. This support is vital to ensure that the Government can provide continued stability and prospects for their people when international military troops withdraw at the end of 2014. Our support will depend on the Government taking forward key governance and economic reforms, including on protecting the rights of women and girls, outlined in the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF). At the request of the Government of Afghanistan, the UK agreed to co-chair the first ministerial review of the TMAF benchmarks in 2014.

The insurgency remains a tangible threat in Afghanistan as the separate attacks in Nimruz and Kunduz provinces on 14 August demonstrated. However, as transition progresses and the ANSF increasingly move to the fore on operations, we are seeing more evidence that violent incidents are being evermore displaced away from the protected communities where the majority of Afghans live. While there are still areas where the insurgent has relative freedom of movement they are finding it hard to concentrate their forces as they would wish. It is likely that they will continue to rely on IEDs, high-profile attacks and assassination attempts as means of conducting their campaign and maintaining relevance.

Insider attacks (incidents where members of the ANSF attack their ISAF partners) remain a serious concern. We are working with ISAF and our Afghan partners to reduce the potential for such incidents, but while being adamant that they will not derail our strategy for transition.

The UK continued to support the development of the local economy in Helmand province. UK Aid has delivered technical and vocational education and training to more than 7,300 Helmandis, giving them the skills to get jobs and start businesses in the emerging private sector. Our assistance is also helping local government officials in Helmand take control of vital infrastructure, including roads, canals and irrigation systems.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk).

Committee on Standards in Public Life *Statement*

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My right honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Francis Maude) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

I am today announcing the start of the Triennial Review of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL). Triennial reviews of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) are part of the Government's commitment to ensuring that NDPBs continue to have regular challenge on their remit and governance arrangements.

The review will be undertaken by an independent external reviewer, Peter Riddell, Director of the Institute for Government, who will want to consult widely with relevant stakeholders, including Parliament, the devolved Administrations, the main political parties, academics, ethics regulators and others with an interest in the work of the Committee. He will be issuing an Issues and Questions Paper in due course and the findings of the review will be published. Peter will be supported in the review by the Cabinet Office. At his request, he will not be paid for his time.

In common with all such reviews, Peter Riddell will undertake the following:

to challenge the continuing need for this NDPB—both its functions and form; and;

if it is agreed that it should remain as an NDPB, to review its control and governance arrangements to ensure that it is complying with recognised principles of good corporate governance.

The aim will be to complete the review in the autumn.

Communities and Local Government: Research *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Don Foster) made the following Written Ministerial Statement on 18 September 2012.

Today my department is publishing the 13th group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration. This Administration inherited a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were commissioned by the previous Government which we have been publishing in groups themed on a particular topic. The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our Freedom of Information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research.

The 16 reports published today represent the findings from 15 research projects at a total cost of £1,453,505. These findings cover the topics of building, planning and the environment.

Planning reports

(i) Evaluation of minerals policy statements (2 volumes). This report by the British Geological Survey considered the implementation of a number of the Minerals Policy Statements and Minerals Policy Guidance notes, and evaluated the impacts of the policy's implementation. This report was commissioned in January 2010 at a cost of £60,000.

(ii) Investigating the influence of settlement pattern and morphology on the sterilisation of shallow coal resources. This report by the British Geological Survey assessed the impact on shallow coal resources of using separation zones around urban areas. This report was commissioned in January 2010 at a cost of £9,000.

(iii) Research to understand the rural impacts of Regional Spatial Strategies. This report by Land Use Consultants noted that the Regional Strategies were not rural-proofed, had an urban-centred approach and planned housing provision in rural areas was on a declining trend. This report was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £21,542.

(iv) A quality local development management service. The last Government's Killian Pretty Report recommended that Government should review the then existing national planning indicator (National Indicator 157) on timeliness for progressing planning applications and proposed a new satisfaction with the planning application service indicator. There was concern from applicants, local planning authorities and others that the performance regime focused on the eight-week and 13-week timescale targets had unintended effects on behaviours and outcomes. In response the Department commissioned research into alternatives. The research report by Addison & Associates with Arup recommended monitoring 37 different indicators. This report was commissioned in November 2009 at a cost of £72,816.

(v) A tool to assess the Impact of EU Directives on UK Sub National Planning Policies (2 reports). This research by Ove Arup aimed to develop a tool to assess the impact of future EU directives on national planning policies. Directives used in developing this tool included the Marine Strategy Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. It noted that EU Directives create significant tensions with the need for development to meet demand. The Marine Strategy Directive would cost key business sectors between £439 million to £1.2 billion in additional costs. The research was commissioned in 2009 at a cost of £81,025.

Building and the environment reports

(vi) Mapping the standard of existing stock and its turnover. This report by Building Research Establishment considered the work to develop a model of the existing housing stock in England and Wales, which could be used in assessing the impact of current and future policy in relation to energy use, carbon emissions and water consumption. This report was commissioned in 2008 at a cost of £56,305.

(vii) Case studies of change of use of dwellings. This report by Faber Maunsell looked at achieving satisfactory acoustic performance for buildings to be converted from industry or commercial use to residential use. Although sound insulation was the main concern of this project, all other relevant requirements of the Building Regulations were to be considered and methods of compliance outlined. This report was commissioned in 2003 at a cost of £115,860.

(viii) Lessons from Stamford Brook: Understanding the gap between designed and real performance. This report by Leeds Metropolitan University conveyed the results of a research designed to evaluate the extent to which low carbon housing standards could be achieved in a large commercial housing development and incorporated into future Building Regulations. The report was commissioned in 2002 and the department's contribution was £215,000.

(ix) The safety of stairs investigated over a range of rise and goings. This report by Building Research Establishment considered people's use of stairs. It conducted analysis of subjective opinions, objective behaviour on stairs and foot placement data to establish the effect of guidance within Part K (Protection from falling, collision and impact) on the design of public, private and institutional stairs and the risk of falling. The report was commissioned in 2003 at a cost of £219,682.

(x) Investigation of real fires. This report by the Building Research Establishment provided feedback on the performance of real buildings in real fires. The findings noted the overall effectiveness of the Building Regulations in providing for the safety of life in the event of fire and most of the significant issues that have been identified during this study fell outside the scope of these regulations. The report was commissioned in 2007 at a cost of £241,067.

(xi) Modelling the current and potential accessibility of the housing stock. This report by Building Research Establishment considered the accessibility of the existing housing stock in England with particular reference to its utility for older and disabled people. The report uses data from the English Housing Condition Survey to identify the frequency and suitability of a range of built features within homes to arrive at an overall assessment of their accessibility and future adaptability. The report was commissioned in 2006 at a cost of £56,305.

(xii) Future administration of the Energy Performance Buildings Directive Quality Assurance regime. The objective of the work was to set the long-term standards and quality assurance arrangements for the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (regime and infrastructure, including Accreditation Schemes and energy assessors) to ensure that robust, repeatable and accurate Energy Performance Certificates, Display Energy Certificates and Air Conditioning Reports were produced in a consistent manner. It was commissioned in June 2009 at a cost of £75,280.

(xiii) Review of the impact of the draft European Basic safety standard Directive on Building Regulations. This report by the Building Research Establishment examines the implications of the proposed European

ionising radiation Basic Safety Standard Directive for Building Regulations. This research was commissioned in February 2010 at a cost of £24,829.

(xiv) Glazing under abnormal loads. This report by Buro Happold and the Building Research Establishment addressed the issue of abnormal loads on glazing and the response of glazing systems. The research was commissioned in particular to examine the role of building regulations in mitigating the risks involved from abnormal loads on glazing. It reviewed structural assessment methods currently used to design buildings with glazed systems and assess their adequacy in the area of abnormal loadings. This work was commissioned in October 2003 at a cost of £157,052.

(xv) Safety of Masonry Parapets. The overall aim of this project was to determine and analyse the most common structural problems associated with masonry parapets and the potential hazards and dangers that may arise. Having identified the problems, conclusions and recommendations require to be made regarding measures that ought to be taken in the specification, design, construction and maintenance of masonry parapets to ensure that they remained safe and structurally sound over the service life of the building. This work was commissioned in October 2003 and cost £61,212.

(xvi) Radon: Current and Future Performance of Radon Protective Measures. This report by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) reviews the performance of radon protective measures in new buildings. The research notes that radon protection measures installed 20 years continue to provide a high degree of radon protection, and were not adversely affected by improvements such as extensions, conservatories, double glazing or insulation. This work was commissioned in February 2010 at a cost of £53,505.

These reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not necessarily a reflection of the current Government's policies and priorities. Copies of these reports are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Elections: Police and Crime Commissioners

Statement

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My right honourable friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Francis Maude) made the following Written Ministerial Statement on 18 September 2012.

Guidance has today been issued to civil servants in UK departments on the principles which they should observe in relation to the conduct of government business in the run-up to the elections for police and crime commissioner roles in England and Wales outside London. The elections will take place on 15 November 2012.

The guidance sets out the need to maintain the political impartiality of the Civil Service and the need to ensure that public resources are not used for party-political purposes. The period of sensitivity preceding the elections starts on 25 October.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website at www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/election-guidance.

EU: Proceeds of Crime

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Jeremy Browne) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Following the debate in the House of Commons on 12 June the Government decided not to opt in at this stage to the Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime in the European Union (European Union Document No. 7641/12).

The Government welcome the overall aims of the Directive and recognise the benefits of increased international co-operation to recover assets held overseas. However, having analysed the contents of the Directive, and consulted with policy and operational partners, the Government identified a number of issues with the Directive, including a serious problem with Article 5 of the Directive which introduces provisions on non-conviction based confiscation in limited circumstances.

The UK has strong powers which are successfully used to tackle criminal finances. Our powers are already compliant with or stronger than many of those contained in the Directive. As the Directive offers no direct benefit and the risk to our domestic regime posed by Article 5 is sufficiently serious, we decided that the best course of action is not to opt in at this stage.

We will take a full part in the negotiations on the Directive and will seek to shape it in the national interest before carefully considering the case for a post-adoption opt-in.

European Stability Mechanism

Statement

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Europe (David Lidington) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

On 12 September the German Constitutional Court announced its decision not to grant temporary injunctions relating to the proposed ratification in Germany of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) Treaty, the Fiscal Compact and the Decision amending Article 136 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. We welcome the Court's decision, which will allow the German Government to proceed with its ratification of the ESM Treaty and the Article 136 amendment Decision.

The Court added caveats to its decision: first that the Bundestag must be fully involved in the relevant decisions and give formal approval to use of the ESM; second that there should be a ceiling for German

liability of €190m and that this cannot be increased without the Bundestag's approval; and third that the requirement of professional secrecy imposed on the Members of the ESM should not prevent the Bundestag from being kept fully informed on ESM decision-making processes.

During the Committee stage of the EU (Approval of Treaty Amendment Decision) Bill I referenced the anticipated 12 September German Constitutional Court decision, stating that it related only to whether the ESM treaty and the Fiscal Compact are compatible with the German constitution [*Official Report*, 10 September 2012; col. 63]. To clarify this, the ruling was in relation to six separate cases brought before the Constitutional Court. These cases were directed primarily against the ESM, which, it was contended, would among other things jeopardise the constitutionally guaranteed right of the Bundestag to control the budget and the use of taxpayers' money, and would turn a stability union into a transfer union. They also dealt with the Fiscal Compact and, in two of the cases, the Decision amending Article 136 TFEU to which the Constitutional Court gave the go-ahead to ratification without conditions.

The Government's position on the ESM remains. The ESM alone will not solve the eurozone crisis, but will play an important role, providing the eurozone with a permanent financial assistance mechanism to assist eurozone Member States in financial difficulty. And financial stability in the eurozone is crucial to our own economic recovery in the UK.

Fuel Poverty

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Baroness Verma): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Davey) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

In March 2012, Professor John Hills from the London School of Economics published his final report into the issue of fuel poverty in which he recommended that the Government move away from the current definition of fuel poverty, which he argued was not fit for purpose. At the time we committed to moving to a new framework for measurement and consulting on that approach. Today I am laying before Parliament a consultation which seeks views on the approach we intend to take.

On the definition of fuel poverty, I intend to adopt the overall framework that Professor Hills proposed in his Review. I believe that this is a better measure of the problem of fuel poverty than the indicator we are currently using because it will allow us to properly understand the problem, and therefore design effective solutions. By adopting a more accurate measure, this will help us to target our resources at those most in need.

The consultation also considers the question of implications of a change to the definition for the fuel poverty target which is set out the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act. The definition of fuel poverty

that we are proposing to adopt is a relative one, while the target is focused on eradication as far as reasonably practicable by 2016. The consultation therefore also seeks views on whether, in changing the definition, we should also seek to align the target with this new understanding of the problem.

Finally, I am also announcing my intention to publish an updated strategy in the New Year, which will set out the final decision on the new definition of fuel poverty, our intentions on the target and will be an opportunity to set out a refreshed plan for tackling fuel poverty, to ensure we the Government are using their resources as effectively as possible.

The consultation will run until 30 November, and I will set out the Government's response with our intention on each of the issues as soon as possible after the consultation has concluded.

Meanwhile we will continue to deliver policies that we know are making a difference, through the Warm Home discount scheme requiring energy suppliers to provide support to low income and vulnerable customers with their energy costs, and the new Energy Company Obligation, which will run in parallel the Green Deal, and is intended to focus particularly on households that cannot achieve financial savings without additional support, including the poorest and most vulnerable, and those in hard to treat homes.

Legal Aid *Statement*

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice (Jeremy Wright) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

During Commons Consideration of Lords Amendments stage of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill, the Government undertook (17 April 2012, col. 226) to consider whether to extend legal aid for advice and assistance to welfare benefits cases in the First-tier Tribunal where these involved a point of law. The vast majority of Tribunal appeals do not involve points of law, but the Government said that where these could be identified by an independent person it would consider making legal aid available.

Having considered the matter carefully, the Government consider that a system of independent verification is not feasible. But it will make available, subject to merits and means tests being satisfied, legal aid in the form of advice and assistance for those welfare benefit cases in the First-tier Tribunal where the First-tier Tribunal has itself identified an error of law in its own decision.

Under tribunal rules, when the First-tier Tribunal receives an application for permission to appeal, it must first consider whether to review its own decision. The Tribunal may only undertake a review of its decision if it is satisfied that there was an error of law in the decision. If the Tribunal reviews its decision, it may invite representations from parties as part of that review. Alternatively, it may take action as a result of the review (in effect, to change its earlier decision)

without first giving every party an opportunity to make representations; in that case any party that did not have an opportunity to make representations may apply for such action to be set aside and for the decision to be reviewed again.

Legal aid will be available to assist appellants in these two situations: to make representations when invited by the Tribunal, and in relation to an application for action to be set aside and for the decision to be reviewed again where representations were not sought. We intend in due course to lay an Order under section 9 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, for approval by each House, to reflect this position.

The Legal Services Commission intends to begin a tender for welfare benefits work in 2013. The tender will cover the work described above, and advice and assistance for onward appeals on a point of law in the Upper Tribunal, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court as described in paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. One of the criteria for awarding contracts in this tender will be price competition.

The indicative timetable for the welfare benefits contract is:

Pre-Qualification Questionnaire Stage: February 2013

Invitation to Tender: May 2013

Contract commencement: October 2013

Existing welfare benefit contracts are due to expire in March 2013. In order to ensure that advice and assistance will be provided for welfare benefit cases within the scope of legal aid, we will put in place appropriate interim measures from April 2013.

Local Statistics *Statement*

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): My right honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles) made the following Written Ministerial Statement on 18 September 2012.

I would like to update honourable Members on changes to the publication of the department's statistics. Today my department has announced its response to the consultation on proposed changes to the department's statistics. From October this year, we will no longer publish statistics at a government office regional level. Instead the department will plan to publish, where appropriate, statistics for Local Enterprise Partnerships and upper-tier local authorities, complementing existing statistics by local authority.

The coalition Government have abolished regional government. The unelected Regional Assemblies/Regional Chambers, the Government Offices for the Regions, the Regional FireControl programme and the Regional Development Agencies have been terminated, as is intended for the Regional Spatial Strategies, subject to the strategic environment assessment process outlined in my statement of 3 September 2012, Official Report, Column 5WS.

The government office regions were an inefficient tier of administration based on arbitrary boundaries. They did not reflect the areas that local residents most identified with, nor were they areas with common economic problems and market conditions, nor were they the most sensible boundaries for coordinating functions such as fire and resilience.

The continuing use of the former government office regional boundaries no longer provides a coherent framework for assessing public policy. Many of the Government's policies now use alternative local geographies, for example Local Enterprise Partnerships, the New Homes Bonus and City Deals. Publishing statistics at a regional level is no longer necessary or informative, and we see little point in producing statistics at taxpayers' expense for their own sake.

The old regional classifications are also misleading—they fail to quantify both the pockets of deprivation that can exist within regions or the differences between rural and urban England, and there is an inconsistency of approach to the size and population of each government region. They are arbitrary lines on a map that have no resonance—in contrast to England's longstanding cities, boroughs and counties which have a real sense of local identity and popular support, dating back centuries in many cases. England has no history of regional government, whereas it does have a great tradition of local governance that this Government wish to strengthen.

There is also a European dimension to the regions in the form of Eurostat's Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics standard (the appropriately named 'NUTS Regulations'). It is the view of Ministers that the NUTS1 hierarchy is no longer appropriate for Structural Funds in England moving forward from 2014. Ministers reject the notion of a 'Europe of the Regions' where nation-states and national Parliaments are sidelined, and replaced with distant regional governments answerable only to a federal European super-state. Dismantling such arbitrary, unelected regional administrative structures will assist in that goal.

Ministers have carefully considered all the representations made in the consultation. I would note that, for the purposes of historic comparisons, nothing prevents academics and other interested parties from compiling and analysing the open local authority data by the old regional government boundaries, if they wish.

The consultation response also notes the implementation of a new form on local authority housing statistics which reduces and rationalises the data we are asking local authorities to provide, reducing burdens on local government. It also reports on the responses on Land Use Change Statistics which confirmed their importance for monitoring the outcomes of planning policy. A copy of the response has been placed in the Library of the House.

Olympic Truce *Statement*

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My honourable friend the

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Mark Simmonds) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

I wish to inform the House about the Government's work on responding to the UN General Assembly's Resolution on the Olympic Truce of October 2011.

It was a real honour for the UK to have the responsibility to promote the Olympic Truce message. We worked closely on delivering an international response to the Olympic Truce, working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

On 17 October 2011, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office secured unanimous co-sponsorship, by all 193 United Nations Member States, for a UN General Assembly Resolution on the Olympic Truce entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal". Since then we have taken the conflict prevention and peace ideals of the UN Resolution internationally as part of our diplomatic work to build stability overseas.

The UN Resolution calls upon UN Member States to undertake concrete actions at local, national, and international levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace. The unanimous co-sponsorship of the Resolution afforded an important foundation for the UK to work in partnership with a broad range of international actors that included governments, parliamentarians, National Olympic Committees, the UN and civil society, including faith groups and NGOs.

We wanted to show that the UN Resolution could be translated into international action. Our diplomatic missions across our network and the FCO in London arranged over 70 events and activities which showed how important the contribution of youth, women and those with disabilities is in promoting peace through sport, culture, education and wider public engagement. Whilst activities took place in every continent, we specifically wanted to bring the Olympic Truce to life in conflict affected and fragile countries.

For example, in Sri Lanka we hosted a Paralympic style sports day for disabled soldiers, disabled ex-LTTE combatants and disabled civilians. Sport demonstrated its mediating influence, bringing together former adversaries to understand each others' perspectives, embracing diversity and encouraging inclusivity. In Khartoum we brought together young people from different communities in Sudan and South Sudan, specifically refugees and residents from Darfur met to play in a football tournament, which supported ongoing work to create a youth football league. In Mindanao, in the Philippines, we co-hosted with the Zamboanga City Government and Zamboanga Football Association "Time out for football", a football tournament and clinic bringing people together from a diverse range of communities, bridging gaps between Christians and Muslims. In Armenia, Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago, children portrayed what the Olympic Truce means to them through art.

As the Foreign Secretary said when speaking at the International Paralympic Inclusion Summit on 6 September, "We wanted to create a legacy that

would last a lifetime. On top of the Government's financial and political commitment to conflict prevention and poverty reduction, we decided to mobilise the ideals of the Olympic Truce."

The UK is the first Games host to deliver this level of international ambition for the Olympic Truce. The UN Secretary-General, in the presence of the International Olympic Committee, recognised the UK's Olympic Truce work on the eve of the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Games. Now others are seeking to build on our experience. We are currently sharing our experience with the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser's Office on Sport and Development for Peace, as well as with Russia, which will next take stewardship of the Olympic Truce in 2013, ahead of the Sochi Winter Games in 2014. This level of international interest, paired with our continued engagement, will help cement our legacy of encouraging future Games hosts to promote the ideals of the Olympic Truce in their own ways.

Planning: Penfold Review Statement

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Stephen Hammond) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Today I am publishing an interim response to the consultation that closed on 24 August detailing proposals to streamline the process of applying for the stopping up or diversion of a highway, where this is required for the purpose of property development.

This interim response is considering only option 1 of the consultation. The remaining options and consultation responses will be considered and a full response, including proposals for a way forward, will be published by the end of November.

The foundation of all three of the main policy options is a speeding up of the process by allowing stopping up and planning applications to run concurrently, namely option 1.

The large majority of respondents, comprising three main groups, namely developers, local authorities and those affected by stopping up decisions, gave broad support for allowing stopping up and planning applications to be made concurrently, with agreement that it would speed up the process and reduce burdens. We will seek an early legislative opportunity to implement this change.

The Government committed to improving the stopping-up application process in the 2011 Autumn Statement and this will help to deliver the Government's growth agenda, by removing unnecessary burdens faced by businesses, speeding up the application process and removing unnecessary bureaucracy. The change will play a useful role in encouraging investment and therefore growth in local communities.

This interim response to the consultation document will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and on the department's website.

Railways: High Speed Rail Statement

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

The Government's decision on 10th January 2012 to take forward proposals for a national high speed rail network followed a major public consultation exercise that attracted around 55,000 responses.

The decision to proceed took account of a range of evidence including analysis by my department and High Speed Two Ltd of issues raised in consultation as well as comments from a wide variety of interested parties through a range of engagement approaches. The Government's independent response analysis consultants, Dialogue by Design (DbyD), carried out a detailed analysis of the consultation responses and a summary of their analysis was published alongside the Government's January decision, with an addendum report published in July:

High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future—Consultation Summary Report, available at www.dft.gov.uk/publications/hs2-consultation-summary/

High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain's Future—Addendum, available at www.dft.gov.uk/publications/high-speed-rail-addendum/.

Since publishing the Addendum report in July, it has become apparent that a further very small proportion of responses were not fully analysed by DbyD. For these responses, the answers to one or more of the seven consultation questions were omitted from DbyD's analysis. In total, approximately 0.4% of answers provided to individual consultation questions were affected.

The table below shows how many of the seven consultation answers were omitted from the analysis in each case:

<i>Number of question responses not analysed</i>	<i>Number of respondents</i>
1	520
2	130
3	44
4	14
5	7
6	2
7	5

The cause has been identified as technical errors in transferring data captured from online consultation responses to the consultation analysis database held by DbyD.

My department asked for supplementary analysis from DbyD and this work concludes that the responses "do not provide any information that was not already included in the previous Consultation Summary Report or would have made a difference to the substantive content or balance of that report". Inclusion in the original analysis would not have changed the substance of DbyD's findings, nor affected the considerations which informed the decisions following the consultation.

All those who submitted the responses affected will be contacted with details of their particular cases.

Schools: Exam Reform

Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove) has made the following Statement.

With your permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a Statement about the future of examinations and assessment in our schools.

The examination which the overwhelming majority of young people sit at 16—the GCSE—was designed with the best of intentions. It sought to broaden the numbers engaging in academic study and prepare for an expansion of further and higher education.

In the years since it was established we have undoubtedly seen improvements in our education system, and those responsible—heads, teachers, parents, students and reformers like Kenneth Baker and Andrew Adonis—deserve our praise.

But the GCSE was conceived and designed for a different age and a different world—a time before majority participation in higher education, a world where information technology was in its infancy. When the GCSE was first taught the school leaving age was still 16, state-planned economies dominated half the globe and the internet was a work of science fiction.

Now that we are raising the education participation age to 18, now that nations which were slow developers 20 years ago are outstripping us economically, and now that ways of learning have been so dramatically transformed in all our lifetimes, it is right that we reform our examination system.

Because we know that the old model—the 80s model—is no longer right for now. We know that the record increases in performance at GCSE have not been matched by the same level of improvement in learning—while pass rates have soared we have fallen down the international education league tables.

We know that employers and academics have become less confident in the worth of GCSE passes—they fear students lack the skills for the modern workplace and the knowledge for advanced study.

We know that children's achievements are not properly recognised, with even the honourable Member for West Derby, an Education Minister in the last Labour Government, admitting under duress that there was grade inflation under that Government.

And we know, most recently and most tellingly, that changes made to GCSEs under the last Government, specifically the introduction of modules and the expansion of coursework in schools, further undermined the credibility of exams, leaving young people without the rigorous education they deserved.

Only last week the OECD reported that in the years up until 2010 our education system still had not been reformed enough to keep pace with the best in the world.

Critical to reform is ending an exam system that has narrowed the curriculum, forced idealistic professionals to teach to the test and encouraged heads to offer children the softest possible options.

It is time for the race to the bottom to end. It is time to tackle grade inflation and dumbing down. It is time to raise aspirations and restore rigour to our examinations.

We have already taken steps to improve vocational qualifications. Following on from the Wolf review we have ensured there is proper assessment, more rigorous content and tighter quality controls on vocational courses. And we are reforming post-16 funding to improve the education of those taking vocational courses.

Today marks the next stage in radical exam reform, to equip children for the 21st century and allow us to compete with the best performing education nations.

We want to ensure modules—which encourage bite-size learning and spoon-feeding, teaching to the test and gaming of the system—go, once and for all.

We want to remove controlled assessment and coursework from core subjects. These assessment methods have, in all too many cases, corrupted the fair testing of all students. We want to ensure that children are tested transparently on what they and they alone can do at the end of years of deep learning. Where individual practical work needs to be assessed, we will be flexible. But we cannot have a system where some students enjoy an inbuilt and unfair advantage over others because of the exam design.

We also want to end the current two-tier division of exams into foundation and higher tiers which condemn thousands of students to courses which place a cap on aspiration

And, critically, we will end the competition between exam boards which has led to a race to the bottom with different boards offering easier courses or assistance to teachers in a corrupt effort to massage up pass rates.

We will invite exam boards to offer wholly new qualifications in the core subject areas—English, maths, the sciences, history, geography and languages.

In each subject area only one exam board will offer the new exams. Ofqual, as the independent exams regulator, will assess all the exams put forward by the exams boards. From those which Ofqual accept, the winner will be the board which offers the course which best meets the criteria, benchmarked to the world's best, informed by academic expertise, and capable of both recognising exceptional performance and allowing the overwhelming majority of students to have their work recognised and graded fairly.

We plan to call these new qualifications—in these core academic subjects—English Baccalaureate Certificates, recognising that they are the academic foundation which is the secure base on which further study, vocational learning or a satisfying apprenticeship can be built. Success in English, maths, the sciences, a humanities subject and a language will mean the student has the full English Baccalaureate.

Some will argue that more rigorous qualifications in these subjects will inevitably lead to more students failing. But we believe that fatalism is indicative of a dated mind-set—one that believes in fixed abilities that great teaching can do little to change.

And we know that great teaching is changing lives even as we speak. We have the best generation of teachers and head teachers we have ever had. Their

excellence combined with reforms and improvements to education that this Government are making through improved teacher training, greater freedoms for head teachers and the growth of academies and free schools means more students will be operating at a higher level.

So even as exams become more rigorous, more students will be equipped to clear this higher bar. Indeed, we are explicitly ambitious for all our children and we believe that over time we will catch up with the highest performing nations and a higher proportion of children will clear the bar than now.

We expect that everyone who now sits a GCSE should sit this new qualification. But of course there will be some students who will find it difficult to sit these exams, just as there are students who do not sit GCSEs today. We will make special, indeed enhanced, provision for these students with their schools required to produce a detailed record of their achievement in each curriculum area at 16 which will help them make progress subsequently—and we anticipate some will secure EBacc Certificates at the age of 17 or 18.

These reforms are radical and so we will consult widely. Their introduction will require careful preparation. So we propose first teaching of new certificates in English, maths and the sciences in September 2015 with other subjects following.

And to ensure that the benefits of this more rigorous approach to the English Baccalaureate subjects are felt across the whole curriculum, we will ask Ofqual to consider how these new higher standards can be used as a template for judging and accrediting a new suite of qualifications, beyond these subjects to replace current GCSEs.

These changes will also require us to consider afresh how we hold schools accountable, so we will consult widely on replacements for existing league tables—and we are determined to have even better ways of recognising schools which add value and help the poorest and to recognise the best vocational as well as academic qualifications.

After years of drift, decline and dumbing down, at last we are reforming our examination system to compete with the world's best.

Just as we were left with a legacy of mismanagement, poor incentives and wasted talent in economic policy by the last Government and this coalition is turning the economy round, so we were left the same legacy in our examination system and this coalition is now modernising our exam system so we can have truly rigorous exams, competitive with the best in the world, making opportunity more equal for every child.

That is why I commend these reforms to the House.

Transport: Devolving Local Major Schemes *Statement*

Earl Attlee: My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Norman Baker) has made the following Ministerial Statement.

Earlier this year we launched a consultation paper setting out options for how we should devolve funding and prioritisation of local major transport schemes following this Spending Review period.

Transport is vitally important to local economies, and new infrastructure can provide the missing links that are often so crucial in getting economies moving and creating opportunities for new investment and employment.

We want to ensure that decisions on new transport infrastructure are made more efficiently, and at a more local level than previously. Local Enterprise Partnerships are well placed to understand how transport investment can be used to boost economic recovery and growth and that is why we want them, working with Local Authorities, to have a key role. Indeed more government funding was announced yesterday for Local Enterprise Partnerships to boost their ability to contribute to the growth and jobs agenda.

I am pleased to say that our consultation proposals were met with approval from the majority of respondents, particularly Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships. A summary of the responses received was published in July. I have today published firm proposals, confirming that, in all of the key areas, the department will proceed on the basis as set out in the consultation paper.

I fully support the key objective of removing Whitehall from the process of making decisions on which local schemes should or should not go ahead. However we have a responsibility to ensure that the new local decision makers have arrangements in place to achieve the value for money that we know the right schemes can deliver and to take account of other important factors such as environmental impact. Most respondents accepted the need for robust local assurance frameworks and we will shortly publish detailed guidance on this, to enable local areas to submit their draft frameworks by December.

Transparency is also essential, to ensure that priorities are widely publicised and understood and can be effectively shaped by local people that have a key interest in them. Evaluation will also assume an even greater importance, to enable all parties to look critically at whether key outcomes were achieved and to learn lessons for future investment decisions.

We have asked local areas to confirm the geographical basis for their local transport bodies by 28 September. When they have done so I will set out indicative funding levels that each area should use as a planning assumption. I can confirm that the distribution of funding between different areas will be on a simple per-capita basis. The total level of funding available will of course be subject to decisions made in future spending rounds.

I look forward to working with local transport bodies over the coming months as we embark on this transition to a truly decentralised system and they begin developing their infrastructure plans for post-2015.

Zimbabwe *Statement*

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr Mark Simmonds) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Following discussions between the UK and its EU partners, the EU announced on 23 July its decision to suspend with immediate effect the restrictions on appropriate measures covering EU development assistance and indicated that it would respond to a peaceful and credible constitutional referendum in Zimbabwe with a suspension of the majority of EU restrictive measures on all but a small core of individuals around President Mugabe, particularly those who will most directly influence the potential of violence in the next election.

This followed the EU announcement in February 2012, where 51 people and 20 companies were removed from the list of those subject to an EU visa ban and asset freeze on the grounds that they were no longer involved in human rights abuses and in recognition of progress made so far in Zimbabwe and regionally in preparation for credible and peaceful elections in Zimbabwe. In February 2011, 35 people were removed from the list following significant progress in addressing the economic crisis in Zimbabwe and improving the delivery of social services.

There has been further progress in the last six months in Zimbabwe, including on the drafting of a new constitution; legislative progress such as the Electoral Amendment Bill and Human Rights Commission Bill being passed; and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) under the leadership of President Zuma reiterating their commitment to facilitate agreement among the parties in Zimbabwe on creating an

environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections. There have been continuing calls for the EU's restrictive measures to be suspended in order to further support the reform process including from all parties to the Inclusive Government, SADC and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Our aim is clear: we want to support the process towards free and fair elections in Zimbabwe. A peaceful and credible constitutional referendum would represent an important step along that path and it is right that the EU responds appropriately. The proposed move is not an endorsement of the content of the draft constitution itself but will demonstrate to reformers across the political spectrum that the EU is serious about responding to real progress on the ground and reflects our confidence in the facilitation process being undertaken by President Zuma and the leaders of SADC.

It also puts the onus on Zimbabwe to live up to their commitments. The constitution-making process has been and continues to be, much delayed and the way forward is uncertain. The international community is monitoring developments closely. We will ensure there is a robust review process following any EU move on measures and that the EU has the ability to respond appropriately should the situation deteriorate.

Britain remains a committed friend to the people of Zimbabwe. UK aid to Zimbabwe in the 2011-12 financial year was £89 million—our largest ever programme. The funds are being delivered through multilateral partners and civil society partners and the EU decision on Appropriate Measures has no impact on the UK aid programme. Between 2011 and 2015 UK aid to Zimbabwe will provide almost one million more people with clean water, give more than 700,000 women access to family planning, create 125,000 new jobs and help 80,000 children complete primary education.

Written Answers

*Answers received between Wednesday 25 July
and Monday 30 July 2012*

Abortion

Question

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what further action they intend to take regarding cases of sex-selection abortions, following the findings of the Care Quality Commission inspection reports on 249 abortion providers. [HL1625]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Inspections carried out by the Care Quality Commission focused on the extent of pre-signing of HSA1 forms by certifying doctors. We await the outcome of police investigations into allegations of sex-selection abortions.

Resolution 1829 (2011) from the Council of Europe called upon member states to collect various data on sex selection and implement a number of other measures. We are currently considering what research and data are available that might help us better explore this issue.

Air Quality

Question

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the occupational exposure limits for tri-cresylphosphate (TCP) ortho-isomers apply to tri-orthocresylphosphate (TOCP) alone or whether they apply also to the other isomers, mono-orthocresylphosphate (MOCO) and di-orthocresylphosphate (DOCP). [HL1746]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Workplace exposure limits (WELs) are British occupational exposure limits set to help protect the health of workers. There is a WEL for tri-cresylphosphate (TCP) of 0.1 mg/m³ long term exposure limit and 0.3mg/m³ short term exposure limit.

Mono-orthocresylphosphate (MOCO) and di-ortho cresylphosphate (DOCP) do not have WELs. The WEL for tri-cresylphosphate (TCP) does not apply to them.

Armed Forces: Commonwealth Citizens

Question

Asked by Lord Craig of Radley

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy for dealing with applications by Commonwealth citizens who have served in units of the British armed forces to remain permanently in the United Kingdom when they leave the armed services. [HL1923]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Foreign and Commonwealth citizens who have served in HM Forces can apply for settlement under paragraph 2760 of the Immigration Rules. The relevant criteria of these Rules include that the applicant must have completed four years of service with HM Forces, made his/her settlement application within two years of discharge from the British military and have no unspent conviction on the date of application. Foreign and Commonwealth citizens who are members of HM Forces are able to apply for settlement in the UK up to 10 weeks before their discharge. Special processes are in place for those service personnel who are being made redundant from HM Forces to enable their settlement applications to be dealt with on an accelerated basis.

Further details on the relevant qualifying criteria and processes applicable to foreign and Commonwealth members of HM Forces who wish to apply for settlement upon discharge can be found in Chapter 15, Section 2A of the Immigration Directorate Instructions. This can be accessed via the UK Border Agency website using the following link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/idischapter15/>.

Foreign and Commonwealth personnel who have completed a period of at least five years' continuous service also have the option of applying to naturalise as a British citizen. In order to succeed they will need to meet the requirements of Section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. These include completion of the relevant residence period and satisfaction of the good character requirement.

Information on naturalisation can be found in Chapter 18 of the British Nationality Act 1981—Caseworking Instructions (Volume 1). This can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/nationalityinstructions/niv011/>.

Asylum Seekers

Questions

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial, health and social support is available to asylum seekers; and whether they have plans to reform the current system. [HL1844]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the UK Border Agency under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until their asylum claims are decided.

Accommodation is provided to destitute asylum seekers and dependants and financial support given to meet their essential living needs. The table below sets out the weekly rates available to the categories of dependants that may be supported.

LEVELS OF CASH SUPPORT FROM 18 APRIL 2011

	£
<i>SINGLE PERSON</i>	
Aged 18 or over (excluding lone parent)	36.62
Aged 25 years or over (excluding lone parent), where the decision to provide cash support was made before 5 October 2009 and the person reached age 25 prior to that date.	42.62
<i>QUALIFYING COUPLES</i>	
Both 18 years or over	72.52
<i>LONE PARENT AGE 18 OR OVER</i>	
Age 18 or over	43.94
<i>PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN</i>	
Person aged under 16	52.96
Person aged 16 but under 18 (except where the person is a member of a Qualifying Couple)	39.80

In addition, asylum seekers who have young children aged between one and three years are eligible to receive an extra £3 per week per a child. Children aged less than one year attract an extra £5 per week per a child. Asylum seekers can also apply for a one-off maternity payment of £300 to help with the costs arising from the birth of a child.

The contractual arrangements with accommodation suppliers and voluntary sector partners also provide for information briefings on the rights and responsibilities of the asylum seekers whilst they are in the United Kingdom and practical advice on how they can access health care and legal assistance to pursue their asylum claims.

Asylum seekers are entitled to access NHS care without charge while their claim or appeal is being considered.

There are no plans to reform the current system.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial, health and social support is available to asylum seekers whose applications have been refused; and whether they have plans to reform the current system.

[HL1845]

Lord Henley: Failed asylum seekers may supported by the UK Border Agency under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. In order to be granted support, they need to show that they are destitute and can satisfy one or more of the conditions set out in Regulation 3(2) of the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005.

Failed asylum seekers in receipt of Section 4 support will continue to receive it until the barrier to leaving the UK, upon which their support relies, is resolved. The support provided under section four consists of self-catering accommodation, plus a weekly allowance for the purchase of food and other essential items. In

exceptional cases, full-board accommodation may be provided, depending on availability. The UK Border Agency is explicitly prevented by legislation from providing Section 4 support in the form of cash and therefore the weekly allowance is provided via the Azure payment card. The weekly allowance is set at a flat rate to reflect the temporary nature of the support and is currently set at £35.39 per person per week.

Whilst not entitled to access to NHS care without charge, failed asylum seekers may apply for assistance with health costs under the NHS Low Income Scheme, using an HC1 form.

There are no plans to reform the current system.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will grant asylum seekers permission to work if their applications remain undetermined after six months.

[HL1846]

Lord Henley: The Government believe that it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum. For this reason, an asylum applicant's claim needs to have been outstanding for at least one year before they can apply for permission to work. This is in line with our obligations under the EU Reception Conditions Directive.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will grant asylum seekers permission to work if their applications have been refused but they cannot be returned to their country of origin.

[HL1847]

Lord Henley: The Government believe that it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum. Therefore there are currently no plans to allow failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights to take up employment. Those who the courts have ruled have no right to remain in the UK should return home.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications remained undecided at the end of (1) 2009, (2) 2010, (3) 2011, and (4) at present.

[HL1848]

Lord Henley: The number of asylum applications pending an initial decision is published on an annual and quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table as.01 and as.01.q of the release *Immigration Statistics, January to March 2012*, available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/>.

The number of applications pending an initial decision in 2010 was 11,623 and in 2011 was 11,297. Latest available figures for the first quarter of 2012 show that the number of applications awaiting initial decision was 11,454.

The number of applications awaiting an initial decision prior to 2010 has previously been published but is not available on a comparable basis following a change to the method by which these figures are produced.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum age dispute cases are currently awaiting determination. [HL1895]

Lord Henley: The data requested are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports. However, the UK Border Agency publishes immigration statistics including age disputed asylum applications annually and quarterly, which are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics website. The figures show the number of age disputed asylum applications by nationality. These can be found in the Library of the House, as well as the following website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q1-2012/asylum4-q1-2012-tabs>.

Asylum Seekers: Children*Question**Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child asylum seekers have been erroneously detained as adults in the last five years. [HL1894]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The number of child asylum seekers who have been erroneously detained as adults in the last five years cannot be determined without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Age dispute asylum applicants will only be considered for detention in the following circumstances:

there is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 years of age or over;

a full "Merton-compliant" age assessment by a local authority has been carried out and is available stating that they are 18 years of age or over.

their physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary.

All other age dispute applicants are not detained. They are treated as children until a full age assessment has been conducted by a local authority and all available evidence has been duly considered.

Atos Healthcare*Question**Asked by The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the annual turnover of (1) general practitioners, (2) nurses, and (3) physiotherapists, employed by Atos Healthcare to undertake the work capability assessment for each of the past five years. [HL1905]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Data on the annual turnover of Atos Healthcare professionals (general practitioners, nurses and physiotherapists) are commercial in confidence. They cannot be released as release of the information would prejudice the interests of Atos Healthcare and the department's future dealings with Atos Healthcare or other service providers.

Aviation: Passenger Duty*Question**Asked by Lord Bradshaw*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the annual value of air passenger duty is (1) refunded to non-fliers who claim it back, and (2) retained by airlines, where non-fliers do not claim it back.

[HL1830]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon):

I refer the noble Lord to the Answer I gave him on 7 March (*Official Report*, 7/3/12; col. WA 417).

Bahrain*Questions**Asked by Lord Patten*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 4 July (*WA 174*), whether they have an identical diplomatic approach to those imprisoned for expressing their beliefs in Bahrain; and, if not, what are the differences. [HL1647]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's policy is guided by the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and we are committed to taking action to protect and support human rights defenders under European Union guidelines.

We welcomed the decision by the Bahraini Public Prosecutor in December 2011 to drop all charges relating to freedom of expression relating to last year's unrest, as recommended by the Independent Commission of Inquiry.

We have made it clear to the Government of Bahrain that they should meet their international human rights obligations, by ensuring their citizens can exercise the universal human rights and freedoms to which they are entitled. This includes the legitimate exercise of freedom of expression. We also expect those exercising those rights to do so peacefully at all times and in accordance with the United Nations declaration and international human rights law.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made, or intend to make, representations to the Government of Bahrain about the recent shooting there of the Shia cleric Ali Salman. [HL1648]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We are aware of clashes between protestors and security forces on 22 June, during which Sheikh Ali Salman sustained injuries. We have not made representations about this incident, but we continue to urge the authorities to ensure restraint is exercised at all times; we also expect demonstrators to act within the rule of law and stage legal rallies. We have consistently made it clear that violence is unacceptable and hinders any efforts towards reconciliation.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt) met Sheikh Ali Salman last week to discuss the situation in Bahrain and ongoing human rights concerns.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made since the beginning of 2012 of whether Saudi Arabian security forces are involved in front-line activities in Bahrain. [HL1649]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We believe that there are a small number of Gulf Co-operation troops currently stationed in Bahrain to safeguard Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) base facilities. The intervention by GCC forces in 2011 came at the invitation of the Bahraini Government. To date, we have seen no evidence that GCC forces have done anything other than safeguard installations, which was also the conclusion of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 18 July [WA 56-7], whether the "political street violence" referred to in the answer refers to violence by demonstrators or by security forces or by both. [HL2005]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The reference to "political street violence" in my previous Answer [*Official Report*, 18/7/12; cols. WA 56-57] refers to a small proportion of demonstrators. As I said in my previous Answer, legitimate and peaceful demonstrations are an integral part of any democratic society. But a minority of demonstrators in Bahrain continue to act outside the rule of law by taking part in illegal demonstrations and are engaged in violent acts, including the use of Molotov cocktails, high-powered darts and basic improvised explosive devices. This is unacceptable. We continue to urge the security forces to exercise restraint and regularly make clear to the Bahraini Government that the human rights of all citizens in Bahrain must be respected. We urge all sides to act within the law at all times.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 18 July [WA 56-7], by when they expect full implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. [HL2006]

Lord Howell of Guildford: It is not for the UK to set a deadline for full implementation of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (BICI). Reform is an evolving process. What is of utmost importance is that the reforms implemented are effective and make a difference to the situation on the ground. It will also take time for behaviours and attitudes to change. We believe progress has been made in a number of areas. But we continue to urge the authorities to keep up the momentum and implement reforms that go beyond what is recommended by the BICI.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 16 July [WA 1], whether, since May 2010, they have raised the medical welfare of any individual named disabled prisoner in Bahrain. [HL2007]

Lord Howell of Guildford: Our ambassador and members of staff from our embassy in Bahrain have frequently raised the medical welfare of prisoners, including disabled prisoners, with the Bahraini authorities. We continue to make clear that we expect the provision of medical welfare to be guaranteed for all prisoners in Bahrain; we have focused on this rather than on specific individual cases.

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 7 July [WA 22], what representations they have made to the Government of Bahrain regarding specific universal rights and freedoms of citizens for which they believe Bahrain does not meet its international obligations to ensure citizens receive these rights. [HL2009]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We continue to make representations to the Government of Bahrain regarding specific human rights concerns that we have. This has, for example, included the mistreatment of detainees which, as the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry report concluded, is an issue of serious concern. During the visit of the Bahraini Justice Minister earlier this month, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt) also raised the importance of the authorities respecting the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

Bankruptcy Question

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person who (1) is subject to an undischarged bankruptcy, or (2) is a director of a company subject to an undischarged bankruptcy, is eligible to chair or serve on a police authority; and whether the membership of North Yorkshire Police Authority is consistent with the rules on bankruptcy. [HL1639]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

A person subject to a bankruptcy order, or whose estate has been sequestered, is disqualified from being a member of a police authority until or unless the bankruptcy order is annulled or the sequestration of the estate is recalled or reduced. A person is also disqualified if he or she is subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(2), the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002(3) or the Insolvency Act 1986(4). There are no specific disqualification requirements for chairs of police authorities. The Government are not in a position to comment on individual cases.

Barbara Hofschroer*Question*

Asked by **Lord Maginnis of Drumglass**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the case of Mrs Hofschroer was first referred to the Home Office; what are the reasons for the delay in the resolution of the matter; and when they expect the issue to be concluded. [HL1638]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The Home Office has received correspondence relating to this case since 2009. Resolution of the case is an operational matter for North Yorkshire Police. The Home Office can play no role in police complaints cases beyond that set out in the Police Reform Act 2002. I can therefore give no indication of when the issue is likely to be concluded.

Billy Rautenbach*Question*

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether in 2009 they granted a licence allowing the release of funds to Billy Rautenbach, or any entity linked with that individual, when he was on the European Union sanctions list for his alleged links with the Government of Robert Mugabe; and, if so, why. [HL1851]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon):

Conrad Muller Rautenbach was designated under EU Regulation 314/2004 on 27 January 2009 and delisted on 23 February 2012. All EU financial sanctions regulations include grounds under which licences can be issued authorising payments or actions otherwise prohibited. The Treasury considers all licence applications on a case-by-case basis against the licensing grounds of the relevant regulation and the purpose of the sanctions. Article 7 of EU Regulation 314/2004 sets out the grounds under which Member States can consider issuing a licence in respect of the Zimbabwe Regulation. However, for reasons of personal confidentiality, I regret that the Treasury is not able either to confirm or deny the information requested about named individuals.

British Citizenship*Questions*

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the UK Border Agency has taken a year to consider and deal with an application for naturalisation as a British citizen by the film maker N. Howard-Moore. [HL1837]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The UK Border Agency does not comment on individual cases. To do so without the express permission of the individual involved would risk breaching the agency's data protection obligations.

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance will be given to those preparing for the Life in the UK test. [HL1897]

Lord Henley: The Life in the UK test is based on the official handbook *Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship*. A new edition of the handbook is being finalised with the aim of publishing it in the autumn to begin testing by the end of the year. The handbook will continue to be available in large print and audio/CD.

Information and guidance for people seeking to take the Life in the UK test is available on the Home Office and UK Border Agency websites. There is a Life in the UK web page (<http://lifeintheuktest.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>) with links to help people to prepare for the test, including help for those not familiar with computers, a navigational tutorial and practice questions and answers to help an individual to judge their readiness to take the test. The Stationery Office also publishes a study guide and practice questions and answers.

Burma*Questions*

Asked by **Lord Hollick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of reports that international aid agencies are being obstructed from delivering aid to Rohingya people displaced by recent violence in Burma. [HL1811]

Baroness Northover: The UK is concerned by both the scale and nature of the violence in Rakhine State and its humanitarian impact. Ministers and officials continue to be active in raising the issues affecting the Rohingya community, and have called repeatedly and at the highest levels for the government to resolve the issue of nationality, and to grant the full respect for human rights to all the people of Burma, notably the Rohingya.

For security reasons, United Nations agencies and non-government organisations withdrew their staff from many of the areas affected by the violence. This has impeded the delivery of emergency aid and we

have called on all sides to respect fundamental humanitarian access. The UN has since been able to provide some food and non-food aid to affected communities. The UK provides support to affected communities through core contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and United Nations agencies.

Asked by Lord Hollick

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Secretary of State for International Development discussed funding for refugees from Burma with Aung San Suu Kyi when she visited the United Kingdom. [HL1812]

Baroness Northover: The Secretary of State for International Development met Aung San Suu Kyi when she visited the Department for International Development (DfID) on 21 June. At the meeting they discussed a range of issues which included the importance of donor co-ordination, work on anti-corruption, improving transparency, responsible investment, and the work of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) which is visiting Burma this month.

Discussions did not focus specifically on refugees but DfID continues to provide support and keeps this under review.

Burma and Thailand

Question

Asked by Lord Hollick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support is being given to (1) the Mae Tao Clinic and (2) Shan Women's Action Network for their projects in Burma and in Thailand. [HL1810]

Baroness Northover: DfID allocated £400,000 for the Shan Women's Action Network between 2009 and 2012 to deliver assistance in the areas of education, health, capacity building and women's empowerment for Shan communities affected by conflict, displacement and violence in Burma. DfID allocated £532,000 for Mae Tao Clinic between 2009 and 2012 to assist refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) along the Thailand-Burma border. This aid finances the purchase of pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies which benefit people affected by conflict in eastern Burma. DfID is currently finalising its future programme of assistance to communities affected by conflict in Burma.

Care Homes: Children

Question

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of children's care homes are in the north-west of England; how many children are cared for in those homes; how many of the children originate from the region; and what factors led to the concentration of care homes in certain regions and towns. [HL1285]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Information obtained from Ofsted shows that at 31 March 2011 there were 510 children's homes situated in the north-west of England. This represents 25% of all children's homes in England. The latest information shows that at 31 March 2012, there were 514 children's homes situated in the north-west of England; this also represents 25% of all children's homes in England.

At 31 March 2011, there were 1,020 looked-after children placed in care homes in the north-west of England. Of these children, 490 (48%) had been placed internally by local authorities within the north-west. Information for 2012 is not yet available.

The distribution of children's homes in England has not come about as a result of central government policy and is influenced by a wide range of factors. These will include local authority assessment of the viability of their directly provided services, alongside decisions by businesses on where they might best invest in opening new services.

Children: Poverty

Question

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the children assessed as living in poverty are from families whose total income is derived from social security benefits, and whether they have any means of ensuring that those benefits intended for improving the well-being of children are used for that purpose. [HL1680]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): We do not regularly produce or publish figures on the number of children living in poverty who are from families whose total income is derived from state support. One of the reasons for this is that there are likely to be few families that actually have absolutely no other income streams apart from state support, even if they report no other income in our survey, because income can come from so many different sources, ranging from the small interest payments earned on current accounts or small regular gifts from friends and family to potentially large amounts of income from employment or investments.

We will consider whether it is feasible to produce the statistics requested within the disproportionate cost limit, and if so, will issue them in an official statistics release in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

We do not directly monitor whether benefits intended for children are used to improve well-being. However, the 2010 Child Poverty Strategy includes a suite of indicators which ensures that Government monitors not just the income children's families receive, but also the outcomes achieved for children in poverty related to health, development and education.

China

Question

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin, the new assistant bishop in Shanghai alleged to be

under house arrest, and Bishop John W Ruowang of Tianshui, who was allegedly removed from office by the Government of China after one year; and whether they will make representations on their behalf. [HL1912]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are aware of reports that the newly appointed Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Shanghai, Ma Daqin, disappeared on 7 July. According to media reporting Bishop John Ruowang of Tianshui was allegedly removed from his position in December 2011. We are concerned by these cases and are seeking further information about them. We will continue to seek opportunities to raise our concerns about individual cases and on issues relating to freedom of religious belief with the Chinese Government.

Courts: Vulnerable Defendants

Question

Asked by *Lord Bradley*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of vulnerable defendants in England and Wales who (1) have mental health problems, and (2) have learning disabilities. [HL1693]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): A survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 1997 estimated that around 90 per cent. of adult prisoners had at least one of the five disorders considered in the survey (personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence). There has been no centrally commissioned survey of mental illness in prison since the ONS 1997 report. However, these were aggregate data and do not provide a separate figure for the incidence of mental illness.

The department will commission an internal audit from its research and development team which quantifies the mental health needs of offenders, both in prison and where possible in community settings. A feasibility study for this work is due to start later this year and a fuller research study is expected to be commissioned in 2013.

Information on learning disabilities in prisons is not collected centrally.

Crime: Gun Grime

Question

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incidents of gun crime were recorded in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 up to the last year for which records are available. [HL1867]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Data for offences recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used since 1997/98 are provided for Lincolnshire

police in the table. Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

Offences recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used in Lincolnshire ^{1,2}

Year	Number of offences
1997/98	5
1998/99 ³	16
1999/00	19
2000/01	24
2001/02	22
2002/03 ⁴	37
2003/04	26
2004/05	90
2005/06	72
2006/07	45
2007/08	41
2008/09	16
2009/10	19
2010/11	17

1. Police recorded firearm offences data are submitted via an additional special collection.

2. Excludes offences involving the use of air weapons and offences recorded by British Transport Police. Includes crimes recorded by police where a firearm has been fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

3. In April 1998, changes to crime recording and the coverage of police recorded crime mean that figures are not comparable with earlier years.

4. The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard.

Cuerden Valley Park Trust

Question

Asked by *Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give an update on the activity in relation to the Cuerden Valley Park Trust of (1) the Department for Communities and Local Government, and (2) the Homes and Communities Agency. [HL1819]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham):

The Homes and Communities Agency has established a small working group of parties with an interest in the future of the park to look at the options available. Chorley Borough Council, South Ribble Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency have agreed to work with the trust in this group and the first meeting of the Cuerden Valley Park Trust Working Group is scheduled for 2 August, chaired by John Stainton, chairman of the board of trustees. The remit is to look at further options that can be pursued that either help to sustain the park in the short

to medium term or, if possible, provide a long-term solution. The agency will provide regular updates to the department.

Education: Languages

Question

Asked by **Lord Harrison**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will respond to the report by the Education and Employers Taskforce for Collins Language regarding the importance of languages acquisition for UK companies.

[HL1106]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): We welcome this report. Learning a language benefits both individuals and the wider economy. The Government are taking steps to improve language teaching. The English baccalaureate has started to reverse the long-term decline in numbers taking languages at GCSE. We have proposed that a foreign language be compulsory for seven to 11 year-olds in maintained schools from 2014, so that they benefit from being taught a language from an early age.

Work-related learning can be important for young people at school, but schools are best placed to decide what is appropriate to suit the needs and circumstances of their pupils. In higher education, modern languages are classed as strategically important and vulnerable subjects and continue to attract targeted funding to support the numbers of students taking up places. This will help to increase the pool of talented linguists seeking employment.

We believe it is important that employers are able to lead the skills system, so the qualifications and the training available, through colleges and other providers, properly reflect business needs.

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills, and the Sector Skills Councils, are now working with, and on behalf of, employers from all sectors to increase workforce skills. To assist with this process, we have introduced the Growth and Innovation Fund and the Employer Ownership Pilot; these assist businesses to define the vocational skills they need, which may include language skills, and develop new ways to meet them. We believe this will lead to a more responsive skills system better able to match employers' demands.

Egypt

Questions

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 4 July (WA 169), whether British diplomatic staff in Egypt include any of the Coptic faith.

[HL1651]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) follows Civil Service

best practice guidance in monitoring equality and diversity in our workforce. There is no obligation on staff to provide information on their religious practice, and the diversity data collected for those declaring themselves as Christians only distinguish between Christian Catholic, Christian Other and Christian Protestant. We therefore do not hold information on the number of British diplomatic staff in Egypt who practise the Coptic faith.

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 4 July (WA 169), whether they intend to have direct discussions with the leaders of the Coptic faith and community in Egypt over their welfare and freedoms.

[HL1652]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We maintain an open communication channel and are in regular contact with representatives of the Coptic Church and other religious minorities through our embassy in Cairo and in the UK.

Embryology

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Gould of Potternewton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prepare Clinical Commissioning Groups for their new responsibilities as commissioners of fertility treatment.

[HL1823]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers of intervention the NHS Commissioning Board will have in the event of a Clinical Commissioning Group failing to provide IVF treatment to eligible couples.

[HL1824]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Infertility treatment services will be commissioned by clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) with the NHS Commissioning Board providing oversight and support. This will include the provision of supportive resources and tools on how CCGs can collaborate to commission infertility treatment services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have general intervention powers in relation to CCGs, should it be satisfied that a CCG is failing or has failed to discharge any of its functions or there is a significant risk that it will fail to do so. These include directing the CCG to discharge a function in a particular way and within a specified period. The board will also have powers to request documents and information, and to require from a CCG explanation of how it is proposing to exercise any of its functions. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the board to publish guidance setting out how it proposes to exercise its intervention powers, so as to ensure that the arrangements are clear and transparent. The Commissioning Board will need to consider CCG responsibilities to commission infertility treatment services as part of this.

Employment Tribunals

Question

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claimants in receipt of Employment Support Allowance whose appeals have been allowed by a tribunal have been sent for reassessment within two years of the tribunal decision. [HL1909]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The information is not readily available and has not previously been published as official statistics. We will consider whether it is feasible to produce the statistics requested within the disproportionate cost limit, and if so, will issue them in an official statistics release in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

EU: Association Agreements

Question

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 13 July (WA 284), by what means the human rights clauses of the European Union-Israel Association Agreement have been or are being enforced; and whether they will give examples of successful enforcement. [HL1763]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The human rights clauses of the European Union (EU)-Israel association agreement form the basis for discussions between the EU and Israel regarding the EU's concerns on human rights. This includes at meetings of the informal working group on human rights, at the EU-Israel Association Committee meetings and at the EU-Israel Association Council, which will meet on 24 July.

The EU has been very clear that no progress can be made on upgrading the wider EU-Israel relationship until there is substantial progress towards a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, that upgrade must be based on the shared values of both parties, and particularly on respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, good governance and international humanitarian law.

Extradition: Gary McKinnon

Questions

Asked by *Lord Maginnis of Drumglass*

To ask Her Majesty's Government for how long the Gary McKinnon case has been awaiting a final decision; and what expert opinion in the case the Home Secretary has (1) sought, (2) accepted, and (3) rejected. [HL1640]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comments on the case of Gary McKinnon by John Arquilla. [HL1641]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The Home Secretary agreed to review the case of Gary McKinnon in May 2010. She will consider carefully all the relevant medical and legal material, and other representations before making her decision.

Gaza

Questions

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have received on whether work has started on four water, sanitation and hygiene projects in the Gaza Strip which received approval in December 2011 from the Government of Israel; and if work has not started, whether they will make urgent representations to the Government of Israel about those projects. [HL1672]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):

We are aware that the Government of Israel approved some projects on water, sanitation and hygiene in December 2011, but we are not aware of new sanitation or water projects starting since then in Gaza.

We have concerns about the implementation of community projects and continue to make representations to the Israeli Government on this issue. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv raised this with the Co-ordinator of the Government Activities in the Territories, Major General Dangot, on 16 July.

Water and sanitation projects worth over \$70 million and benefiting over 1.4 million Palestinians are still awaiting Israeli approval for access of materials. The fair and effective distribution of shared water resources across the Middle East is of great concern to us. The Government continue to press the Israeli Government, bilaterally and by working with others such as the European Union, on the need to ensure adequate access to water in Gaza. These resources are limited and therefore require effective co-operation from all parties to manage them in such a manner that ensures there will be enough for all.

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last made representations to the Government of Israel about access to and egress from Gaza for vehicles and materials; and with what results. [HL1673]

Lord Howell of Guildford: When the Parliamentary Under-Secretary State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt) visited Gaza in July 2011, he saw how the Israeli restrictions on movements of goods and people, including on access to agricultural and fishing areas, do tremendous damage to the economy and living standards of ordinary people in Gaza and serve to strengthen, not weaken, Hamas. The current situation fosters radicalisation and empowers Hamas, while punishing the ordinary people of Gaza. An improved economy is not only essential for the people

of Gaza, but firmly in Israel's security interests. In close co-ordination with our European Union partners and the Office of the Quartet Representative, we continue to press the Israeli Government at ministerial and official level to ease access restrictions. We welcome some recent small steps in this direction, including the first exports of textile goods from Gaza to the UK.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza, the prohibition of trade and economic activities with illegal settlements, the treatment of prisoners and children in detention, halting increases in the numbers of settlers in the Occupied Territories and Area C of the West Bank, and compensation for buildings destroyed in the Occupied Territories and Area C are all on the agenda for forthcoming meetings between the European Union and Israel.

[HL1769]

Lord Howell of Guildford: On 15 May the European Union (EU) issued Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions which set out the EU position on Gaza, settlements, settlement produce, human rights, Area C and demolitions: www.consiliurn.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/130195.pdf.

The EU-Israel Association Agreement provides mechanisms for the EU to regularly and periodically raise our concerns on these issues with Israel. On 2 May 2012 the association committee reviewed the progress of all sub-committees and working groups operating under the EU-Israel Association Agreement. These sub-committees will continue to meet throughout 2012 and provide the EU with an opportunity to raise any issue of concern with Israel.

The EU has been very clear that no progress can be made on upgrading the wider EU-Israel relationship until there is substantial progress towards a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, that upgrade must be based on the shared values of both parties, and particularly on respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms, good governance and international humanitarian law.

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure the implementation of the 16 internationally-led projects to alleviate Gaza's water shortage currently awaiting implementation; and what representations they have made to the Government of Israel to produce a timetable for completion.

[HL1924]

Baroness Northover: UK officials regularly discuss the issue of access to water with Israeli counterparts, and call on Israel to allow entry of essential items on the dual-use list to allow for rehabilitation of the water network. We have supported the Palestinian Authority's crossing co-ordination committee in its work in co-ordinating movement of all goods into and out of Gaza by providing it with equipment necessary for its day-to-day functioning. We are also working closely

with the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR) to hold Israel to account for promises made as part of the most recent Confidence Building Measures package.

DfID has not specifically lobbied on the implementation of the 16 internationally-led projects referred to in the question. The main lead on water issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territories lies with the Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene group (EWASH). EWASH co-ordinates project management among almost 30 donors, agencies and organisations working on water and sanitation projects in both the West Bank and Gaza, and ensures that the donor community's messages to the appropriate Israeli authorities on these issues are coherent and consistent.

Government Departments: Apprentices

Question

Asked by Lord Adonis

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total number of staff employed within the private offices of ministers and the permanent secretary at the Department for Education on 1 June; and how many of them were (1) under the age of 21, (2) apprentices under the age of 21, and (3) apprentices over the age of 21.

[HL959]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The total number of staff employed in the private offices on 1 June 2012 was 70. All are aged over 21 and while there are currently no apprentices in private offices, at least two permanent members of staff in private offices began their careers in the department on the apprenticeship scheme. We expect several new apprentices to be placed in private offices in the autumn.

Government Departments: Public Consultations

Question

Asked by Lord Mawhinney

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the greatest number of responses to a public consultation that the Home Office has been able to consider and on which it has offered a public policy decision within (1) three months, or (2) six months, of the ending of the public consultation.

[HL1732]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Information on the number of responses to certain individual consultations is published in government response documents. These can be found on the Home Office website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/consultations/under-closed-consultations>.

An example of a consultation with a relatively large number of responses for which a response document was published within six months was the Rebalancing the Licensing Act, a consultation on empowering individuals, families and local communities to shape and determine local licensing. This received a total of 1,089 responses.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

Questions

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Health and Safety Executive enforces the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated legislation including the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended), for aircrew in flight in British airspace, as well as in aircraft on the ground and intended for flight. [HL1687]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the enforcing authority for the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated legislation including the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). However, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for regulating the occupational health and safety of crew members pursuant to the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004. A memorandum of understanding between HSE and CAA allocates responsibility to avoid duplication of effort.

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Health and Safety Executive enforces the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) for British-registered aircraft outside British airspace. [HL1688]

Lord Freud: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the enforcing authority for the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated legislation including the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). However, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is responsible for regulating the occupational health and safety of crew members pursuant to the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004, and for regulating the health of all persons on board British registered aircraft pursuant to the Civil Aviation Act 1982. A memorandum of understanding between the CAA and HSE allocates responsibility to avoid duplication of effort. HSE gives a lesser priority to enforcement in areas where other regulators have responsibilities and are better placed to regulate.

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Health and Safety Executive and the Civil Aviation Authority on health and safety regulatory responsibilities for public transport and cargo aircraft operations, which organisation is responsible for enforcing the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) for aircrew on board aircraft, on the ground before or after flight, and in

flight; whether aircrew employees are protected by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) whilst working in aircraft in British airspace; and on how many occasions since the MoU was signed either organisation has enforced the legislation for infringements that have occurred. [HL1689]

Lord Freud: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is the enforcing authority responsible for enforcing the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) for aircrew on board aircraft, on the ground before or after flight, and in flight.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) also has responsibility for the health and safety of aircrew under the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004, and for the health of persons aboard aircraft under the Civil Aviation Act 1982. Where the regulatory functions of HSE and CAA overlap, the memorandum of understanding between them sets out who is the most appropriate regulator so as to avoid duplication, as happens in other areas of work activity. HSE gives less priority to enforcement in areas where other regulators have responsibilities and are better placed to regulate.

Since the MoU was signed, HSE has taken the following enforcement action in relation to operations around aircraft on the ground: one prosecution; seven improvement notices and two deferred prohibition notices. None of the enforcement action relates to a breach of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

CAA has taken no enforcement action in relation to any chemical exposure on board aircraft under the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations.

Asked by *The Countess of Mar*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the occupational health and safety enforcement responsibilities designated to the Civil Aviation Authority under the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004 involve the enforcement of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). [HL1690]

Lord Freud: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) does not have enforcement responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended). However, CAA is given occupational health and safety enforcement responsibilities under the Civil Aviation (Working Time) Regulations 2004.

CAA regulatory responsibilities require that crew members are provided at all times during the course of their employment with adequate health and safety protection and prevention services or facilities appropriate to the nature of their employment.

Health: Contraceptive Services

Questions

Asked by *Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health in the UK on restrictions in access to contraceptive services; and whether they plan to implement the relevant recommendations of the report. [HL1785]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will implement the recommendation made by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health in the UK in its recent report *Healthy women, healthy lives* for the forthcoming sexual health policy document to be published as soon as possible; and whether they will give a date for its publication. [HL1786]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department expects the National Health Service to offer comprehensive access to contraception services and free supplies of all methods of contraception.

The department will set out plans to improve sexual health services in our sexual health policy document later this year and from next April contraceptive services will be commissioned as part of new arrangements for public health services. Local authorities (LAs) will be mandated to commission open access services and access to all methods of contraception for people of all ages. LAs will receive new ring-fenced public health budgets for the first time.

Health: Multiple Sclerosis

Question

Asked by *Baroness Harris of Richmond*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standard on multiple sclerosis is due to be developed and published. [HL1711]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): We asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop a quality standard on multiple sclerosis in March 2012 as part of a library of approximately 170 NHS quality standards. NICE has not yet published a timescale for the development of this quality standard.

A full list of quality standards, including information on those currently in development and those already published can be found on NICE's website: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qualitystandards/qualitystandards.jsp

Health: Neuromuscular Disease

Question

Asked by *Baroness Thomas of Winchester*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the NHS Commissioning Board about the future funding arrangements for neuromuscular care advisors in England. [HL1874]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Adult specialised neurosciences services form part of the Specialised Services National Definitions set. Under the Health and Social Care Act (2011), the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB) will have responsibility for the direct commissioning of a number of services including those specialised services that are currently commissioned on a national or regional basis. Work is currently in hand to determine the list of services. No final decisions have yet been made on which services the NHSCB will directly commission from April 2013. Ministers expect to be in a position to set out an initial list in the summer. This will then be subject to consultation with the NHSCB, prior to setting out in regulations.

For low-volume services that fall outside the scope of specialised services, there will be flexibility for commissioning groups to decide how to commission, for example, through collaboration or through a lead-commissioner arrangement.

The department has not had any specific discussions with the NHSCB about the future funding arrangements for neuromuscular care advisers in England.

Health: Orthopaedics

Question

Asked by *Baroness Quin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is available to Clinical Commissioning Groups to help them design and plan services to prevent falls and fragility fractures in older people. [HL1794]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department provides guidelines through the department's falls and bone health commissioning toolkit.

In addition, the department held a Falls and Fractures Summit with Age UK and the National Osteoporosis Society in October 2011 to explore how to improve services for patients with falls and fractures.

Health: PDE5 Inhibitors

Questions

Asked by *Baroness Gould of Potternewton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to discourage men who experience erectile dysfunction from buying PDE5 inhibitors from unlicensed online pharmacies if they are unable to access appropriate treatment in the National Health Service. [HL1782]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent the sale of counterfeit PDE5 inhibitors by unlicensed online pharmacies.

[HL1783]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any assessment has been made of the volume of counterfeit PDE5 inhibitors that enter the United Kingdom illegally each year through (1) community pharmacies, and (2) online pharmacies.

[HL1784]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): As both the availability of medicines through unregulated websites and the global availability of counterfeit medicines present distinct problems to public health in the United Kingdom, the UK Government take these issues very seriously.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) engages in regular public awareness campaigns with stakeholders to warn consumers of the inherent dangers of purchasing any type of medicine online. The MHRA tackles online pharmacies through monitoring websites offering to supply medicines (particularly prescription medicines) to UK citizens and has also initiated a highly successful global annual international enforcement operation which targets medicines sold via the internet, resulting in the closing down of thousands of websites.

The MHRA has developed and implemented a falsified medical products strategy which puts in place a number of measures to prevent counterfeit medicines and medical devices from reaching patients.

European legislative changes were announced by the European Parliament on 15 February 2011 in the form of the Falsified Medicines Directive and will be implemented in the UK from January 2013. The provisions will include additional obligations on manufacturers and distributors of medicines. The directive also requires member states to introduce national arrangements to register suppliers of medicines at a distance.

There has been one known instance of a counterfeit PDE5 inhibitor entering the UK through a community pharmacy which was Cialis in 2004. There is no definitive way of assessing the volume of online trade in medicines and medical devices.

Health: Smallpox Vaccine

Question

Asked by **Lord Jopling**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Warner on 28 November 2005 (WA 12-13), how many (1) doctors, (2) nurses, (3) ambulance staff, (4) scientists, (5) police personnel and (6) others have been vaccinated for smallpox with the intention of enabling them to deal with a terrorist attack, and how many of those have had complications leading to further treatment using vaccine immunoglobulin.

[HL1664]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): In line with the risk assessment at the time, a cohort of front-line health workers was

vaccinated in 2005 to deal with any initial suspected or confirmed cases of smallpox should it occur. The cohort comprised a total of 516 vaccinated personnel of whom 147 were doctors, 164 were nurses, 100 were ambulance staff, 32 were scientists and 73 held other related healthcare occupations. All those vaccinated were carefully screened and monitored and none had adverse complications that required vaccinia immunoglobulin.

The Home Office has confirmed that since 2005 it has not commissioned a vaccination programme against smallpox for police emergency responders. The department's smallpox policy is currently under review.

Health: Training and Education

Question

Asked by **Lord Willis of Knaresborough**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to require private sector and third sector organisations in receipt of healthcare contracts to participate in the education and training of nurses and other health care professionals.

[HL1800]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Any organisation providing National Health Service-funded services will be expected to participate in the education and training of the healthcare workforce. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on any person providing services as part of the health service to co-operate with the Secretary of State, in the discharge of his new duty in Section 1F of the National Health Service Act 2006 to exercise his functions so as to secure an effective education and training system.

This duty will take effect from 1 April 2013. It will be achieved by amending the NHS standard contract so that it includes clauses requiring all providers of NHS services to co-operate with their local education and training board to enable it to plan, commission and quality assure education and training effectively.

House of Lords: Legislation

Question

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Chesterton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Strathclyde on 9 July (WA 212), whether Ministers receive a briefing on the implications of the Pepper v Hart judgment for the interpretation of legislation before they introduce a Bill in Parliament; and, if so, of what does that briefing consist.

[HL1576]

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Strathclyde): Any briefing or legal advice provided to Ministers on the interpretation of legislation prior to a Bill being introduced is done on a case-by-case basis. Reference to the Pepper v Hart judgment is made in the Cabinet Office *Guide to Making Legislation*.

Housing Question

Asked by **Baroness King of Bow**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Hanham on 28 May (WA 111), what was the breakdown of the grant allocated to each developer from (1) the National Affordable Housing Programme (2008-11), and (2) the Affordable Homes Programme (2011-15).

[HL1587]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The breakdown of grant allocated to each developer from the National Affordable Housing Programme (2008-11) and the Affordable Homes Programme (2011-15) is set out below.

<i>Developer</i>	<i>Affordable Homes Programme 2011-15 (£m)</i>	<i>National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11 (£m)</i>
Barratt Developments PLC	10.90	23.70
Bellway PLC	10.80	3.30
Berkeley Homes Group	0.00	44.70
Bovis Homes Group PLC	5.10	0.60
Crest Nicholson	0.00	0.40
Galliford Try PLC	17.10	7.70
Persimmon Ltd	20.60	1.60
Redrow Regeneration Ltd	0.00	0.00
Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd	0.00	2.30
Telford Homes PLC	4.50	17.80

Figures provided in the Written Answer on 28 May (WA 111) also included allocations made through the Kickstart programme.

The 2011-15 programme will invest £4.5 billion of taxpayers' money in affordable housing and lever in a further £15 billion of private investment, assisted by innovative schemes like Affordable Rent.

The National Audit Office's recent report (*Financial Viability of the Social Housing Sector: Introducing the Affordable Homes Programme, HC 465, 4 July 2012*) observed that: "The Department selected the best delivery model open to it for the funds it had available ... The Department has so far achieved its policy objective to maximise the number of homes delivered within the available grant funding ... The Programme was over subscribed which led to the Department raising its target for the number of affordable homes it expects to deliver".

Human Trafficking and Servitude Question

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the abolition of the Overseas Domestic Workers Visa on the problems of servitude and human trafficking. [HL1761]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Overseas Domestic Worker (ODW) visa has not been abolished. Following a consultation last year on options for reforming the ODW routes, including closing the private household route, the Government introduced reforms in April. These restore the original purpose of the ODW routes, to allow visitors and diplomats to be accompanied by their domestic staff rather than provide permanent access to the UK for unskilled workers. The reforms recognise that the ODW routes can result in the import of abusive employer/employee relationships to the UK. They address the risk by ensuring those entering the UK through the private household route do so only for a short time and to accompany an employer with whom they have a pre-existing relationship.

The Government consider that these reforms will help reduce the risk of the ODW routes being used to traffic workers into slavery and servitude. In addition, the UK's protections for victims of trafficking and slavery remain available to those using the ODW routes.

Immigration Questions

Asked by **Lord Hoyle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many foreign nationals who hold a criminal conviction that has not been spent or exhausted under the law in their home nation, or under English law, have been allowed entry clearance into the United Kingdom. [HL1816]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): Entry clearance officers consider decisions to refuse or grant a visa on a case by case basis and take into account a range of factors including criminal records from both the UK and overseas. The exact nature of all individual visa refusals is not recorded centrally. To answer the question would therefore require examination of individual records which would result in disproportionate costs.

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that Parliament has the opportunity to scrutinise all changes to the Immigration Rules before enforcement; and how they plan to improve the current system for scrutinising such changes. [HL1896]

Lord Henley: Her Majesty's Government endeavour to respect the convention of allowing 21 days between the date on which Immigration Rules are laid and the date on which they come into force. However, where operational or legal requirements necessitate an urgent change to the Immigration Rules in order to preserve their procedural or legal integrity, it is necessary to bring changes to the rules into force in a shorter time. The procedure laid down in Section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 nevertheless applies in all cases. If changes to the Immigration Rules laid before Parliament are disapproved by a resolution within 40 sitting days

from the date on which the changes are laid, the Secretary of State shall make such changes to the Immigration Rules as appear to her to be required in the circumstances within 40 sitting days from the date of the resolution. Her Majesty's Government consider that the period of 40 sitting days allowed for disapproval by resolution provides ample opportunity for thorough scrutiny of changes to the rules and do not consider that any improvements are needed to the system for scrutinising such changes.

Immigration: Children

Question

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children are currently detained for immigration purposes in (1) removal centres, (2) short-term holding facilities, and (3) pre-departure accommodation.

[HL1893]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Latest published figures show that as at 31 March 2012 there was one child held, solely under Immigration Act powers, at Cedars pre-departure accommodation.

The Home Office releases statistics on detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly basis, within Immigration Statistics and on children entering detention on a monthly basis which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at: <http://homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/>.

Immigration: Criminal Records

Question

Asked by **Lord Hoyle**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how differences between criminal sentences given in England compared with Australia, Canada and the United States are accounted for, when allowing entry clearance into the United Kingdom.

[HL1817]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Entry clearance officers consider decisions to refuse or grant entry clearance on a case-by-case basis and will take into account a range of factors, including overseas criminal records.

Paragraph 320(18) of the rules states that an application should normally be refused if that person has been convicted of an offence in any country, which could have attracted a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more if the offence had been committed in the UK. Entry clearance officers should not refuse under paragraph 320(18) if the conviction is considered spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

Paragraph 320(18) will not apply where an applicant has been cautioned. When determining if a refusal under paragraph 320(18) is appropriate, the entry

clearance officer must ensure that the refusal is both proportionate and reasonable. All cases are considered on their individual facts.

Immigration: Domestic Violence

Question

Asked by **Lord Dholakia**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many settlement applications are received by the UK Border Agency each year under the SET (DV) provisions on domestic violence; how many of those applications are successful; and how many of those successful applications are decided prior to the culmination of any relevant court proceedings on domestic violence.

[HL1858]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The number of settlement applications received each year since 2006 under SET (DV) provisions are as outlined below:

	<i>Applications received</i>	<i>Granted Settlement</i>
2006	1,132	309
2007	1,318	275
2008	1,345	647
2009	1,287	742
2010	1,215	821

We do not collect details of cases that are decided prior to any outstanding court proceedings being concluded. It would be rare that a decision would be made prior to court action being concluded but when it does happen it is only when the evidence of domestic violence is overwhelming.

The information relating to number of applications has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change. The information relating to the number of cases granted settlement is taken from published data last updated on 25 August 2011. This data will be updated next in August 2012.

Iran

Questions

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will draw the attention of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Mr Ahmed Shaheed, to the case of the founder and President of the Human Rights Organisation of Iranian Kurdistan, Mohammad Sadiq Kaboudvand, on hunger strike in prison in Tehran.

[HL1674]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We will continue to draw the attention of Dr Shaheed to the many human rights cases of concern in Iran, including that of Mohammad Sedigh Kaboudvand. We are particularly

concerned about Mr Kaboudvand's health following his hunger strike. We highlighted his case on 3 May through our Farsi social media presence as part of a series dedicated to imprisoned journalists in Iran and will continue to follow his case closely. We frequently call on Iran directly to cease the persecution of human rights defenders.

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last made representations to the Government of Iran concerning the Farsi-language Christian churches there, and with what result; and whether they will continue making representations on behalf of Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani and Pastor Farshid Fathi and other imprisoned Christians, in particular about their consequent loss of jobs and homes. [HL1911]

Lord Howell of Guildford: In a Statement on 10 May, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt) called on Iran to overturn Pastor Nadarkhani's death sentence and stop the harassment of individuals on the basis of their religious beliefs. (A copy of the Statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website: www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=763080082.)

While Iran appears not to have overturned the sentence, neither are there reports it has been carried out. We believe that raising the profile of such cases and international pressure does make a difference. We will therefore continue to make representations to Iran about the persecution of individuals on religious grounds, including through their recently accepted protecting power in the UK, the Sultanate of Oman. We will raise Pastor Nadarkhani, Pastor Fathi and the persecution of Christians more broadly, including the effects on their employment and property, with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed; and we will press in international fora such as the UN General Assembly this autumn for the Iranian Government to cease the persecution of religious minorities in Iran.

Israel Questions

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implementation by the Government of Israel of the recommendation of the 2008 Goldberg Commission which recommended the recognition of most of the remaining unrecognised Bedouin villages in Israel. [HL1939]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We remain concerned that the Israeli Government's Goldberg Commission's 2008 recommendations, which included a recommendation to recognise most of the remaining unrecognised Bedouin villages, has not brought about an end to the demolition of Bedouin houses and villages.

Our Embassy is in regular contact with Bedouin leaders and activists and our Ambassador to Israel has discussed the issue with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Knesset and Minister Begin on a number of occasions. Minister Begin told our Ambassador that the majority of the unzoned and unplanned villages would stay in place. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt) also spoke to Minister Begin on 12 July to raise our concerns and encourage further dialogue between the Israeli Government and Bedouin representatives. Extensive consultations with the Bedouin community are underway and it is clear that decisions are not yet imminent. We hope that this process will result in an agreed and satisfactory solution to the long-standing issue of unrecognised Bedouin villages.

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel on the draft legislation before the Knesset which seeks to ban mosques from using loudspeakers during the call to prayers. [HL1940]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The bill tabled by Knesset Member Michaeli was rejected by the Israeli Ministerial Committee for legislation in 11 December 2011. We have therefore made no representations on the matter.

In general we place real importance on the right to freedom of religion for all. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief, including attacks or discrimination against Christians in the Middle East. Our embassies in the region monitor and raise concerns over human rights with host Governments, including freedom of religion or belief, whenever appropriate. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws. We also continue to raise freedom of religion or belief in bilateral and European Union human rights dialogues and we work in the United Nations and with other international organisations to uphold universal standards.

Israel and Palestine: West Bank and East Jerusalem

Question

Asked by Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases have been filed by British citizens or residents claiming compensation or damages for land or properties in the West Bank or East Jerusalem; whether they will promote or assist them with a view to establishing legal precedents; and when they expect the first of any such cases to be decided. [HL1910]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are not aware of any cases filed by British citizens or residents claiming compensation or damages for land or properties in the West Bank or East Jerusalem.

Lebanon

Question

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are assisting the National Dialogue taking place between political leaders in Lebanon; and what assessment they have made of the contribution of the recent publication by Conciliation Resources *Reconciliation, reform and resilience: Positive peace for Lebanon*. [HL1836]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Government are strongly committed to supporting peace and stability in Lebanon, which is also critical for the stability of the region. To this end we have doubled our support to the Lebanese security forces and are providing assistance to strengthen Lebanon's democratic institutions. Lebanese political factions met in the National Dialogue on 11 and 25 June, for the first time since early 2010. We have welcomed the resumption of the National Dialogue and are urging all Lebanese parties to work together to continue to reduce tensions. This was also the message given by the European Foreign Affairs Council in its conclusions agreed on 23 June.

Earlier this month, officials attended a presentation held by Conciliation Resources on the launch of its Accord publication on Lebanon. We welcome the contribution this will make to the debate within Lebanon and in the international community about how to support reconciliation and reform in Lebanon to promote long-term stability and prosperity.

Middle East and North Africa: Discrimination against Women

Question

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider assembling before 2014 a conference to consider implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa; and whether, through the Arab Partnership and all other means, they will support participation by women in their local economies in those regions. [HL1815]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The UK works with all the UN agencies, in particular UN Women, to advance women's rights. The UK embodies the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) non-discrimination principle in domestic legislation and the implementation of the convention is also supported by a range of non-legislative measures. The UK reports regularly to the CEDAW committee. Its latest periodic report was submitted in June 2011 and we expect the oral examination to take place during summer 2013.

We believe that it would be better for any Middle East and North Africa-wide conference on CEDAW to be led and assembled by players in the region. We would consider favourably providing expert input and

support to such a conference if requested, as we did when we part-funded with the European Union, a National Women's Conference in Libya in November 2011, and assistance in meeting their commitments under CEDAW.

In 2011 the UK established the Arab Partnership initiative, backed by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)/Department for International Development (DfID) Arab Partnership Funds of £110 million over four years—a £40 million FCO-led Arab Partnership Participation Fund (APPF) and a £70 million DfID-led Arab Partnership Economic Facility (APEF) to support political and economic participation in the MENA region. Encouraging greater participation for women in all political and economic life is an important aspect of the fund's work. Under all our funding instruments we ensure that gender issues are taken into account in our projects and that all programmes have a focus on the marginalised, particularly women and girls. We have also supported projects with a specific gender focus, e.g. a voter outreach programme in Tunisia targeting women voters in rural areas.

The Government support women's participation in their local economies across the region. Our regional women's political participation work is directly linked to women's economic empowerment, and contributes to tackling legal and regulatory frameworks which inhibit their ability to participate fully in economic life. In addition, we are working with international finance institutions in the region to ensure, for example, that their small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and access to finance programming include women fully. At a local level, in Egypt, we are also supporting rural women's engagement in microfinance and entrepreneurship in their communities.

National Crime Agency

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the budget that will be required for the additional responsibilities to be taken on by the National Crime Agency; what assessment they have made as to whether there will be any additional costs arising from the new responsibilities; and whether any such costs can be met from existing budgets. [HL1715]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Government have committed to deliver the National Crime Agency (NCA) from within the combined budgets of its precursor organisations. For the first full financial year of operations, the NCA budget is estimated to be approximately £400 million. The NCA will use its enhanced intelligence capability and tasking and co-ordination arrangements to co-ordinate the law enforcement response to serious and organised crime so that resources are focused where they can have the greatest impact and duplication is eliminated. Budget considerations are included in the ongoing work on the design and operating model for the NCA.

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the budget required for each of the four commands within the National Crime Agency.

[HL1716]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether each of the commands within the National Crime Agency will have its own distinct budget to adhere to and work within.

[HL1717]

Lord Henley: The National Crime Agency (NCA) will comprise four operational commands: Organised Crime, Border Policing, Economic Crime, and Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP). These commands will be supported by centralised, cross-cutting capabilities for intelligence, prioritisation, tasking and cyber crime. The NCA director-general will be responsible for ensuring that the resources provided to the NCA are allocated in the most efficient and effective manner in accordance with the NCA's strategic priorities.

NATO Questions

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total amount spent in each of the last five years on publicising and explaining in the United Kingdom the roles and functions of NATO.

[HL1594]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not maintain a specific budget for diplomacy campaigns related to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). We do seek, however, to publicise the UK's role in NATO through regular media channels. The most recent example would be the foreign attendance by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) at the NATO Chicago Summit in May.

For the past five years, the UK's delegation to NATO (UKDel NATO) has also had two staffing resources working on communications. UKDel NATO currently has one press officer and one digital/media support officer who work on ensuring UK messaging is fully integrated into NATO's public diplomacy work, liaise with Brussels-based UK and international media, and work on digital outreach.

The UK also contributes to the NATO Civil Budget which, in part, supports the NATO Public Diplomacy budget. Calendar year figures for the NATO Public Diplomacy budget for the last five years are below:

Year	NATO Public Diplomacy Division Budget (excluding Staff costs) (£million based on current exchange rate)
2008	6.6
2009	6.9
2010	7.2

Year	NATO Public Diplomacy Division Budget (excluding Staff costs) (£million based on current exchange rate)
2011	6.5
2012	6.1

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what the UK financial contribution has been in each of the last five years to the Civil Budget of NATO.

[HL1595]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Civil Budget covers the running costs of the NATO political headquarters in Brussels, including the salaries of international civil servants (from the Secretary-General downwards) and utilities, buildings maintenance and official travel. The current UK contribution is approximately 11% of the total.

Year	Contribution (£million based on current exchange rate)
2008/09	21.6
2009/10	21.0
2010/11	19.7
2011/12	20.1
2012/13*	20.5

* Projected

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total number of people in the UK delegation to NATO; and how this has changed over the past five years.

[HL1596]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is made up of a mixture of Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence (military and civilian) employees. The current level of staff (including contracted services staff) is 56.

There has been a steady reduction in staff levels from approximately 70 in 2009 to current levels.

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any information about the number of UK citizens serving in the international staff of NATO.

[HL1597]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The international staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation headquarters (NATO HQ) number around 1,200 and of these around 144 are UK citizens. Only Belgium, as NATO HQ's host nation, has a greater number of international staff.

Asked by **Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated date of completion of the new NATO headquarters building; and what has been the UK contribution to its cost.

[HL1598]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The estimated date for the building to be handed over to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is December 2015, where further work will be undertaken to prepare it for national delegations until 2017.

So far, the UK has contributed £22,627,206, but our total contribution over the lifespan of the project until 2017 will be £95,719,531.

The UK has been closely monitoring the project and the costs to ensure that best value is obtained.

Overseas Aid

Question

Asked by **Lord Stoddart of Swindon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the annual cost to the United Kingdom of its combined gross contributions to the European Union, NATO, the United Nations and overseas aid. [HL1679]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The UK gross contribution to the European Union (EU) Budget, after taking account of the UK abatement, in 2011-12 was £12,184 million. This includes money that scores as UK official development assistance (ODA).

The UK's financial contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO's) common funded budget in 2011, excluding non-common funded costs such as manpower costs, was £151 million. The UK's contribution to the NATO civil budget in that year was €25 million.

The UK makes numerous contributions to the many different parts of the United Nations (UN) system and UN-led activities. The UK's contribution to the UN Regular Budget in 2011 was \$155.3 million. For further information on the contributions to the UN, including contributions to the UN Peacekeeping Budgets and to other UN programmes, funds and bodies, I refer the noble Lord to the Answer given by Mr Henry Bellingham MP, Minister for Africa, on 17 January 2012 (*Official Report*, Commons; col. 723W).

Total UK ODA in 2011 is provisionally estimated at £8,570 million, including ODA contributions to multilateral organisations including the United Nations and the European Commission.

Pakistan

Questions

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they hold regarding the killing on 4 July of Mr Ghulam Abbas, who was accused of breaking blasphemy laws in Pakistan; and whether they have made representations over the matter. [HL1726]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are aware of media reports of the killing of Mr Ghulam Abbas on 4 July for allegedly breaking the Blasphemy Laws. We are very concerned about the potential for the Blasphemy Laws to be misused against Muslims and religious

minorities in Pakistan. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my honourable friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Mr Burt), raised the issue of freedom of religion with the Foreign Minister for Pakistan, Hina Rabbani Khar, in February this year.

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the volume and trend of vigilante killings of those accused or suspected of breaking blasphemy laws in Pakistan. [HL1727]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly meets non-governmental organisations who monitor the killings related to the Blasphemy Laws in Pakistan. The FCO also summarises the trends on Blasphemy Laws in its annual Human Rights report and quarterly updates to the report. In that report we highlight our concern over the misuse of the Blasphemy Laws against Muslims as well as religious minorities in Pakistan.

Police

Questions

Asked by **Lord King of West Bromwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers took early retirement in (1) 2010, and (2) 2011, in the police forces of (a) Birmingham, (b) Coventry, (c) Solihull, (d) Wolverhampton, (e) Walsall, (f) Sandwell, and (g) Dudley. [HL1629]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average number of police officers working in (1) 2009, (2) 2010, and (3) 2011, for the police forces of (a) Birmingham, (b) Coventry, (c) Solihull, (d) Wolverhampton, (e) Walsall, (f) Sandwell, and (g) Dudley. [HL1630]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The requested information on the number of police officers who took early retirement within Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley is not held centrally by the Home Office. As figures are only collected as at 31 March, it is not possible to provide average numbers. The latest available information (full-time equivalents) on the number of police officers in post as at 31 March 2009 to 2011 for Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley can be seen from the table.

The number of police officers in post as at 31 March 2009 to 2011 within police forces of Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.^{1,2}

	2009	2010	2011
Birmingham	3,106	3,090	2,312
Coventry	852	826	600
Solihull	389	404	325
Wolverhampton	674	670	508
Walsall	640	639	484
Sandwell	717	720	565
Dudley	555	556	449

1 These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

2 Figures for Birmingham basic command unit for 2010/11 are the sum of Birmingham East, Birmingham North, Birmingham South and Birmingham West & Central.

Figures for 2008/09 and 2009/10 for Birmingham basic command unit are the sum of West Midlands D1-D3, E1-E3 and F1-F3 basic command units. Figures for Coventry basic command unit for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are the sum of West Midlands M1-M3 basic command units. Figures for Wolverhampton basic command unit for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are the sum of West Midlands G1-G2 basic command units. Figures for Dudley basic command unit for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are the sum of West Midlands J1-J2 basic command units.

Figures for Sandwell basic command unit for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are the sum of West Midlands K1-K2 basic command units.

Figures for Walsall basic command unit for 2008/09 and 2009/10 are the sum of West Midlands H1-H2 basic command units.

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers were employed in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 to the last year for which records are available. [HL1863]

Lord Henley: The latest available information shows that the number of police officers employed by Lincolnshire police force (full-time equivalents) in each year, as at 31 March, from 1996 to 2011, were as follows:

Number of police officers employed in Lincolnshire police force in each year as at 31 March 1996 to 2011.^{1, 2.}

Number of police officers

31-Mar-96	1,145
31-Mar-97	1,196
31-Mar-98	1,191
31-Mar-99	1,140
31-Mar-00	1,115
31-Mar-01	1,202
31-Mar-02	1,198
31-Mar-03	1,236
31-Mar-04	1,241
31-Mar-05	1,234
31-Mar-06	1,236
31-Mar-07	1,243
31-Mar-08	1,201
31-Mar-09	1,229
31-Mar-10	1,206
31-Mar-11	1,202

1. This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

2. Figures prior to 2003 exclude and figures after 2003 include police officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Complaints

Question

Asked by Lord Ahmed

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the results of the internal West Midlands police professional standards investigation into complaints that police made up evidence against the Muslim university student Rizwaan Sabir; and whether they are aware of any similar cases.

[HL1707]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

This is a matter for West Midlands Police. The Home Office can play no role in police complaints cases beyond that set out in the Police Reform Act 2002.

Police: Stations

Questions

Asked by Baroness Smith of Basildon

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police stations have closed in each police authority over the past three years. [HL1861]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police stations have seen a reduction in opening hours in each police authority over the past three years. [HL1862]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

This information is not collected centrally. Decisions about the most effective use of available resources, including the numbers and operating hours of police stations, are a matter for chief constables and police authorities or police and crime commissioners to take locally.

Public Order Act 1986

Questions

Asked by Lord Mawhinney

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the Home Secretary last met ministerial colleagues to discuss the Government's response to the public consultation on Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, which concluded in January 2012. [HL1733]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues and others as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Asked by Lord Mawhinney

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether it is their policy that the removal of the word "insulting" from Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 would result in an enhancement of the public's freedom of expression. [HL1734]

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to give their response to the public consultation on Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, which ended in January 2012. [HL1735]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the approximately 2,500 responses to the public consultation on Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, which ended in January 2012, remain to be (1) opened, or (2) read by a Minister. [HL1736]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the delay in the publication of a response to the public consultation on Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986, they remain committed to freedom of expression. [HL1737]

Lord Henley: The Government are committed to restoring the right to non-violent protest and to protecting individual freedoms. They are also committed to ensuring that the police have the powers they need to maintain public order and protect communities from hate crime.

All responses to the consultation have now been read and Ministers are carefully considering all the issues that have been raised. The Government will publish their response in due course.

Raed Salah

Questions

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what legal advice they took before issuing the deportation order for Sheikh Raed Salah. [HL1825]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Government do not routinely comment on individual exclusion cases but in this instance the Secretary of State can confirm that a notice of intention to deport was issued against Mr Salah. The Secretary of State cannot comment on legal advice received on this case.

Asked by *Baroness Tonge*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Sheikh Raed Salah has been offered or sought compensation for the length of time he was detained on bail in the United Kingdom. [HL1826]

Lord Henley: As a matter of public record Mr Salah did seek, but later withdrew, a claim for compensation for the time he was in immigration detention. He was not paid compensation.

Riots

Question

Asked by *Baroness Sherlock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their formal response to *After the riots: the final report of the Riots Communities and Victims Panel*, published in March 2012. [HL1960]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made a Written Ministerial Statement on Friday 13 July, which I repeated in this House on the same day (*Official Report* col. 168). This was in response to the Riots Communities and Victims Panel's final report. The Statement set out the measures that the Government and other agencies put in place to rebuild communities following the riots. It also set out the action that the Government are taking forward to address some of the more entrenched issues highlighted in the panel's report.

Roads: Street Names and Numbers

Question

Asked by *Lord Kinnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what powers they have to require (1) domestic and commercial property occupants or owners to display clearly the street numbers of their premises on front entrances, and (2) local authorities to display clearly the names of streets at or near to the entrances of, and exits from, streets and at junctions with other streets; and where those powers exist, what are the relevant provisions in statute. [HL1408]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham):

Issues around the design and location of street names and premises numbering are a matter for local authorities. Local authorities in England and Wales have powers in relation to this under the following statutes: Public Health Act 1925 (Section 19); the Public Health Act 1875 (Section 160, incorporating Sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847) and the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939.

The Department for Transport publishes guidance for local authorities on this matter in its Circular Roads 3/93 *Street Name Plates and the Numbering of Premises*. This contains advice on the design and installation of street name plates and reminds local authorities of the continuing need to maintain a good standard of street name plates and property numbering schemes and to improve existing standards where necessary.

A copy of the circular is being placed in the Library of the House.

Secret Intelligence Service

Question

Asked by *Baroness Falkner of Margravine*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reports in the *Daily Telegraph* of 12 July and *Civil Service World* that Sir John Sawers has publicly spoken of the role of MI6 contacts in alleged assassinations or cyber-warfare against Iran, whether his remarks were cleared by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [HL1659]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): It is the policy of successive UK Governments not to comment on matters of intelligence and national security.

Sudan and South Sudan

Question

Asked by *Lord Avebury*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will propose to the United Nations Secretary-General that the United States, Russia and China should be asked to provide evidence from satellite images to confirm or refute South Sudan's claim that Sudan has bombed South Sudanese territory. [HL1892]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The United Nations (UN) Mission in South Sudan investigated the site of the reported bombing on 20 July. Its initial report suggests that a number of bombs were dropped by the Sudanese Air Force within South Sudanese territory. While denying that the attack took place across the border, the Government of Sudan have claimed that their forces attacked fighters from the Sudanese rebel Justice and Equality Movement operating from within South Sudanese territory.

Any cross-border attacks are a violation of the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 2046, as well as the agreements on peaceful resolution of disputes concluded between the two countries. The UN Security Council will take this into account in determining compliance with Resolution 2046.

Terrorism: Detainees

Question

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many alleged terrorist suspects were detained in the last three years; and how many were convicted.[HL1708]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The figures requested are shown in the following table.

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Number of persons detained</i>
2008/2009	123
2009/2010	78
2010/2011	50

Please note the above figures cover the financial year and include those arrested under S41 of the Terrorism Act 2000. We do not hold more up-to-date figures for 2011/2012; these are due to be published in the annual statistical bulletin in September 2012.

Figures for those convicted under terrorism legislation

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Number of persons convicted</i>
2008/2009	17
2009/2010	4
2010/2011	-

Thirteen individuals were charged in the year 2010/2011, two were not proceeded against, and 11 were awaiting prosecution which is why no figure has been inserted in table above.

Figures for those convicted of offences under non-terrorism legislation but where considered terrorism related

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Number of persons convicted</i>
2008/2009	8
2009/2010	12
2010/2011	3

The above figures were taken from the last annual statistical bulletin (*Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and Subsequent Legislation:*

Arrests, Outcomes and Stops & Searches) published 13 October 2011 and covers the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. A link to this publication is provided below:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/counter-terrorism-statistics/hosb1511/hosbl511?view=Binary>

Universal Credit

Question

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 17 July (WA 48) on universal credit, how they are going to ensure claimants' documents used to verify information are delivered safely by post, and at whose expense this will be undertaken. [HL1773]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Universal credit will be a predominantly digital service, however there remains a need for physical evidence to be verified and in some circumstances that will be done by post. Our current thinking is to provide claimants with a secure freepost address to send in requested evidence.

Visas

Questions

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many student visas were issued for students from overseas in the last 12 months; what was the revenue generated from them; and how that sum compares with the revenue generated in the previous three years.

[HL1703]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The number of student visas granted and the revenue generated through student visa applications over the last four years is as follows:

<i>PBS Tier 4/Student visas</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>			
	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>
Income	£34,437,905	£65,059,411	£77,911,191	£70,761,463
Visas issued	235,613	313,314	295,073	226,052

Please note that the income figure for F/Y 2011/12 is based on management information, ahead of formal publication of the UKBA's statement of accounts.

Figures relate to PBS tier 4 student applications and equivalent categories pre-PBS. "Student visit" visas have not been included as income from that endorsement category is not disaggregated from other short-term visitor categories.

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been granted visas to enter the United Kingdom to attend the 2012 Olympic Games as (1) participants, (2) media personnel, (3) spectators, and (4) others. [HL1740]

Lord Henley: Where an individual has received accreditation to participate in the Olympics, the requirement for a visa is waived. Up to the end of March 2012, 2,043 visas were issued under the visa endorsement “Visit—Olympic/Paralympic family”. It is not possible to identify from visa statistics those who are visiting the Olympic Games under categories (2), (3) and (4) as this would require the examination of individual records, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Asked by Lord Roberts of Llandudno

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many post-study work visa applications remained undecided at the end of (1) 2009, (2) 2010, (3) 2011, and (4) at present. [HL1849]

Lord Henley: The data requested are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency’s standard reports. However, the UK Border Agency publishes statistics on a quarterly and annual basis that cover granted post-study work visa applications. Published statistics regarding post-study work visa applications can be found in the Library of the House and following this link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-ql-2012/>.

Visas: Fishing Fleets

Question

Asked by Baroness Butler-Sloss

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many transit visas were granted in 2011 to individuals going to work for British-owned fishing fleets. [HL1822]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): We do not routinely collate data on individuals going to work on British-owned fishing fleets. To obtain this information would require the examination of individual records, and incur disproportionate costs.

Answers received between Monday 30 July and Monday 6 August 2012

Abortion

Questions

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many doctors, nurses, and managers have been referred to (1) the police, (2) the General Medical Council, or (3) the Nursing and Midwifery Council following the Care Quality Commission’s recent individual inspection reports into providers offering abortion services. [HL1901]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department understands that, as a result of the recent Care Quality Commission’s

inspections, a number of health professionals were referred to the police and their professional regulator for investigation because of evidence uncovered.

The health regulators (including the General Medical Council as the regulator for doctors and the Nursing and Midwifery Council as the regulator for nurses and midwives) are statutory bodies and have powers to investigate where complaints are made to them that the fitness to practise of professionals is in question.

As the health regulators are independent bodies, and as investigations are ongoing, the department is unable to comment further at the present time.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what were the outcomes of investigations by (1) the police, (2) the General Medical Council, and (3) the Nursing and Midwifery Council, following the Care Quality Commission’s recent individual inspection reports into providers offering abortion services. [HL1902]

Earl Howe: The department is aware that relevant police forces, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council, are pursuing investigations into allegations of pre-signing of abortion HSA1 forms. Investigations are continuing and we still await a decision on whether any prosecutions will be brought.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessments were made of whether abortions took place legally or illegally in the Care Quality Commission’s individual inspection reports into providers offering abortion services; and what plans the Care Quality Commission has to monitor improvements by abortion providers in their compliance with the Abortion Act 1967. [HL1903]

Earl Howe: It is for the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether to prosecute individuals and for the courts to determine whether there has been a breach of the law on abortion. Following its recent inspections, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is working with 14 National Health Service hospitals and has required that all trusts put in place “compliance actions”. These require providers to demonstrably improve their practices to ensure compliance with requirements; all 14 providers have now taken steps to ensure compliance. Officials will work with a number of bodies including the CQC and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to address the findings from these inspections.

Armed Forces: Aircraft

Question

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether the Military Aviation Authority report of the Fleet Air Arm (*Military Aviation Authority—Headquarters Chief of Staff (Aviation and Carriers) Assurance Visit Report*) will be made publicly available on the Ministry of Defence website; and what grading the Fleet Air Arm received. [HL1978]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): There are no plans to make the Military Aviation Authority Assurance visit report on Headquarters Chief of Staff (Aviation and Carriers) publicly available. On the evidence of the report, the Director General of the Military Aviation Authority determined a green grading was appropriate, indicating no significant weaknesses.

Armed Forces: Aircrew *Question*

Asked by Lord Trefgarne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will arrange for medical statistics relating to aircrew serving in the Armed Forces to be made available to the Civil Aviation Authority. [HL2028]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): Currently the Ministry of Defence does not routinely release medical statistics to the Civil Aviation Authority. However, in the interest of promoting flight safety, the MoD and Civil Aviation Authority have regular communication on topics of shared interest, including medical matters. If a specific request were received from the Civil Aviation Authority for medical statistics, then, within the requirements of the Data Protection Act, Human Rights Act and Freedom of Information Act, data would be made available in an anonymous and non-identifiable format.

Atos Healthcare *Question*

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the past five years, how many and what proportion of Employment Support Allowance claimants have been found fit for work after assessment by Atos Healthcare assessors; how many and what proportion of those claimants have appealed; and how many and what proportion of appeals have been allowed. [HL1908]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The department regularly publishes official statistics on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The latest publication was released on 24 July 2012 and can be found on the departmental website here: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca.

Table 1a in the publication gives the outcomes (including fit for work decisions) of all new claims to ESA received since its introduction in October 2008. The table gives this information for all claims received across the whole of Great Britain.

Table 3 in the publication gives the number of appeals against fit for work decisions in Great Britain and their outcomes.

Broadband: 4G Mobile *Question*

Asked by Lord Dubs

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what evidence they have concluded that a fee of £50 plus VAT would be sufficient to enable a registered digital installer to install the necessary filter to protect television services against interference from 4G mobile services in homes with signal-boosting amplifiers. [HL1776]

Lord Newby: The figure of £50+VAT for the installation of a filter to a rooftop antenna with a masthead amplifier was arrived at as a result of discussions with representatives of the aerial installer industry.

Broadcasting: Digital Switchover *Question*

Asked by Lord Dubs

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the proportion of households in the United Kingdom that will have amplifiers to boost digital television signals following the conclusion of digital switchover; and what is their estimate of what this figure is as a proportion of the total number of households receiving digital television on their main set through the digital terrestrial platform. [HL1777]

Lord Newby: The figure contained in Ofcom consultation on the number of amplifiers in customer homes was derived from information supplied by the industry. However, the vast majority of this equipment was fitted before digital switchover, when the transmit power of the digital signal was much lower than now. It is not possible to estimate what proportion of this equipment is still in use and what proportion has been removed or disconnected.

Burma *Questions*

Asked by Lord Hollick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Government of Burma on the formation of a joint domestic and international board with the involvement of the United Kingdom to investigate the number of political prisoners in Burma. [HL1813]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We continue to press the Burmese Government on a regular basis to release all remaining political prisoners. This issue was raised most recently in a meeting between our ambassador and the Burmese Attorney-General in Naypyidaw on 23 July 2012.

In line with the recommendations of UN Special Representative for Human Rights Quintana, we raised with the Government the possibility of establishing an

independent investigative mechanism to look into remaining cases. We have not made specific representations regarding the make-up of such a body. We continue to meet with local and international human rights groups, civil society organisations and released political prisoners in Burma to discuss this matter.

Asked by Lord Hollick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Government of Burma about allowing recently released political activists to be given passports. [HL1814]

Lord Howell of Guildford: Officials from our embassy have made representations on several occasions to Burmese Government Ministers, most recently on 27 July, about issuing passports for released political prisoners. We will continue to raise this matter until the situation is addressed. The European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Catherine Ashton, also raised the matter with President Thein Sein during her recent visit.

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether staff of the Department for International Development have been able to visit Maungdaw in Rhakhine State, Burma. [HL1875]

Baroness Northover: No staff from DfID have been able to visit Maungdaw in Rhakhine State. DfID monitors the situation through its links with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and through the regular UN OCHA Situation Reports.

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many representations the Department for International Development has received in 2012 to date for increased funding for refugees from and displaced persons in Burma. [HL1876]

Baroness Northover: To date, in 2012, DfID has received 15 letters regarding increased funding for refugees and displaced persons in Burma. Most of these refer to Early Day Motion (EDM) 2719 which calls on the Government to increase aid to populations displaced by conflict in Burma. EDM 2719, tabled in 2012, has 66 signatures. DfID has received a number of parliamentary Questions in 2012 relating to funding for refugees from and displaced persons in Burma: two of these ask specifically about increases in funding; details are available in the parliamentary archives. DfID Ministers and staff have met a range of people with a specific interest in our work for refugees from and displaced persons in Burma this year. The question of increased funding is sometimes raised in these meetings, although it is not possible to say exactly in how many of them.

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are providing to women's empowerment projects in Burma; and which specific women's organisations in Burma receive British aid. [HL2038]

Baroness Northover: In Burma, UK aid supports the empowerment of women and girls in all of its programmes and partnerships. Through UK aid in Burma, by 2015, 110,000 women will have more access to financial services, 113,000 more girls will be helped to access and complete primary education, and at least 549,000 women will participate in cash for work activities. DfID's Burma programme provides support to the following women's organisations: the Gender Equality Network, which includes more than 30 women's organisations; the Gender and Development Initiative; and the Shan Women's Action Network.

Children: International Law and Rights

Question

Asked by Lord Stone of Blackheath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what work they have undertaken in the past 10 years to conduct evaluative analyses of law and practice as they affect children in countries or regions around the world by reference to the standards of international law and international children's rights. [HL1730]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are fully committed to children's rights and to improving the situation of children worldwide. Our embassies and high commissions continue to monitor and raise human rights, including children's rights, in their host countries against those countries' commitments to international standards. The UK also makes specific human rights recommendations, including on children's issues, to countries through the United Nations universal periodic review process.

We have also given support and funding to the work of international institutions tasked with improving the situation of children, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children in armed conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against children.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual Human Rights and Democracy report includes a focus on children's rights and children in armed conflict globally, and on the situation of children in a number of countries of concern including Afghanistan, Burma, Vietnam and Somalia.

Children: Looked-after Children

Question

Asked by Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the latest year for which data are available, what percentage of looked-after children in each local authority in England attended a school graded (1) outstanding, (2) good, or (3) satisfactory, by Ofsted in their most recent inspection report. [HL1428]

Lord Newby: The percentages of looked after children in each local authority in England that attended a school graded outstanding, good or satisfactory in their most recent inspection report are given below. The figures relate to children who are looked after by local authorities at 31 March 2011, and to Ofsted inspection carried out before that date.

Table LA1: Percentage of looked after children attending schools that have been judged by Ofsted to be outstanding, good, satisfactory or poor¹

Year: 2011

Coverage: England

	Number of school aged children looked after at 31 March 2011 ²	Number of looked after children for whom school attended and Ofsted judgment is known ³	Percentage of looked after children with an Ofsted judgement before 31 March 2011 of: ⁴			
			Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
ENGLAND	29640	24900	18	46	33	4
NORTH EAST	1690	1500	18	48	32	2
Darlington	75	65	27	45	27	0
Durham	240	215	13	54	33	x
Gateshead	140	130	27	50	20	x
Hartlepool	80	75	18	51	31	0
Middlesbrough	140	125	22	46	32	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	270	240	20	33	42	4
North Tyneside	115	110	24	54	23	0
Northumberland	140	110	16	50	31	x
Redcar and Cleveland	70	55	X	57	35	0
South Tyneside	130	115	13	41	41	5
Stockton-on-Tees	115	100	23	40	36	x
Sunderland	180	165	11	60	26	x
NORTH WEST	5460	4660	20	50	28	2
Blackburn with Darwen	165	150	10	65	23	x
Blackpool	170	155	16	37	46	x
Bolton	235	205	11	56	34	0
Bury	125	105	9	71	19	x
Cheshire East	215	180	26	46	25	x
Cheshire West and Chester	175	140	21	53	25	x
Cumbria	250	215	19	42	38	x
Halton	55	50	47	29	22	x
Knowsley	160	135	17	53	28	x
Lancashire	625	560	17	49	31	3
Liverpool	495	425	21	56	23	x
Manchester	675	550	19	43	36	2
Oldham	165	120	16	60	24	0
Rochdale	200	170	18	61	19	x
Salford	255	215	16	54	25	5
Sefton	200	185	42	42	16	0
St. Helens	190	160	24	47	26	x
Stockport	130	115	15	61	21	x
Tameside	170	145	14	52	30	x
Trafford	130	100	41	41	14	x
Warrington	110	100	26	38	36	x
Wigan	220	195	25	44	27	4
Wirral	340	290	28	49	23	0
YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER	3340	2880	12	43	39	6
Barnsley	110	95	6	48	25	21
Bradford	450	370	11	37	47	5
Calderdale	125	110	26	44	26	x
Doncaster	200	155	13	38	41	7
East Riding of Yorkshire	135	115	8	34	51	7

	Number of school aged children looked after at 31 March 2011 ²	Number of looked after children for whom school attended and Ofsted judgment is known ³	Percentage of looked after children with an Ofsted judgement before 31 March 2011 of: ⁴			
			Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	265	245	5	40	48	7
Kirklees	265	235	12	44	39	4
Leeds	700	620	10	47	36	7
North East Lincolnshire	55	40	23	38	36	x
North Lincolnshire	75	65	X	66	27	x
North Yorkshire	220	195	13	53	31	3
Rotherham	190	165	22	36	36	5
Sheffield	255	215	15	41	41	4
Wakefield	170	145	16	48	31	5
York	120	110	12	46	39	x
EAST MIDLANDS	1900	1590	16	42	38	4
Derby	225	185	18	43	33	5
Derbyshire	280	240	9	47	41	3
Leicester	220	200	20	42	35	x
Leicestershire	150	135	19	43	36	x
Lincolnshire	245	205	12	48	39	x
Northamptonshire	300	235	22	27	47	5
Nottingham	205	160	19	45	33	x
Nottinghamshire	265	220	13	40	36	10
Rutland	15	10	X	55	x	0
WEST MIDLANDS	3950	3380	14	46	36	4
Birmingham	975	870	14	44	39	3
Coventry	300	255	12	50	35	3
Dudley	335	300	12	50	34	4
Herefordshire	80	55	32	44	23	x
Sandwell	275	230	15	45	36	4
Shropshire	90	70	38	38	25	0
Solihull	175	150	14	39	44	4
Staffordshire	375	320	7	48	42	3
Stoke-on-Trent	185	150	11	54	36	0
Telford and Wrekin	140	110	23	29	48	0
Walsall	245	210	12	43	38	8
Warwickshire	300	250	17	51	30	x
Wolverhampton	195	165	16	51	26	7
Worcestershire	280	240	12	46	32	10
EAST OF ENGLAND	2960	2460	16	46	33	5
Bedford Borough	65	50	13	50	29	x
Central Bedfordshire	70	65	19	56	24	x
Cambridgeshire	230	190	15	38	44	3
Essex	725	605	14	47	35	4
Hertfordshire	485	410	22	39	36	3
Luton	190	160	22	47	28	x
Norfolk	470	375	9	51	31	9
Peterborough	150	120	11	52	34	x
Southend-on-Sea	125	115	10	54	29	6
Suffolk	360	305	19	47	29	6
Thurrock	85	70	28	36	33	x
LONDON	4500	3530	23	44	30	3
INNER LONDON	2070	1620	24	46	27	3
Camden	110	80	24	55	21	0
City of London	x	x	0	0	x	0
Hackney	135	95	30	50	19	x
Hammersmith and Fulham	100	75	30	51	18	x
Haringey	255	195	19	41	36	4

	Number of school aged children looked after at 31 March 2011 ²	Number of looked after children for whom school attended and Ofsted judgment is known ³	Percentage of looked after children with an Ofsted judgement before 31 March 2011 of: ⁴			
			Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Islington	135	115	22	55	22	x
Kensington and Chelsea	55	50	16	59	22	x
Lambeth	225	175	20	48	29	x
Lewisham	235	200	21	43	29	7
Newham	245	190	21	47	30	x
Southwark	215	150	22	45	28	6
Tower Hamlets	145	125	37	37	25	x
Wandsworth	100	90	25	38	34	x
Westminster	110	80	31	42	23	x
OUTER LONDON	2440	1910	22	43	32	3
Barking and Dagenham	160	120	19	39	40	x
Barnet	155	125	23	48	28	x
Bexley	90	70	X	38	51	x
Brent	160	120	23	50	25	x
Bromley	130	100	23	45	29	x
Croydon	320	230	22	37	35	6
Ealing	165	130	28	45	26	x
Enfield	130	95	17	48	34	x
Greenwich	250	210	12	44	40	4
Harrow	45	30	45	42	x	0
Havering	80	65	14	51	30	x
Hillingdon	175	140	28	33	36	x
Hounslow	160	125	27	40	30	x
Kingston upon Thames	50	45	24	47	24	x
Merton	40	35	20	43	31	x
Redbridge	80	70	33	35	21	11
Richmond upon Thames	40	35	24	42	33	0
Sutton	60	50	14	55	31	0
Waltham Forest	140	115	23	44	32	x
SOUTH EAST	3560	2970	19	43	34	3
Bracknell Forest	35	30	X	54	25	x
Brighton and Hove	180	145	24	38	34	x
Buckinghamshire	155	125	21	32	44	x
East Sussex	255	230	18	48	31	4
Hampshire	540	475	19	40	37	4
Isle of Wight	85	75	20	45	35	0
Kent	650	530	9	46	41	3
Medway	140	100	X	48	41	8
Milton Keynes	115	90	30	34	32	x
Oxfordshire	180	150	23	42	34	x
Portsmouth	135	125	14	45	36	5
Reading	80	70	26	51	22	0
Slough	75	55	33	41	20	x
Southampton	160	145	19	40	36	6
Surrey	310	265	27	43	26	4
West Berkshire	50	45	26	58	16	0
West Sussex	330	255	24	44	32	x
Windsor and Maidenhead	50	35	X	56	25	x
Wokingham	30	30	X	64	x	0
SOUTH WEST	2280	1930	21	48	28	4
Bath and North East						
Somerset	75	60	18	60	20	x
Bournemouth	85	65	19	49	30	x
Bristol, City of	335	280	15	40	40	5
Cornwall	215	190	23	50	26	x

	Number of school aged children looked after at 31 March 2011 ²	Number of looked after children for whom school attended and Ofsted judgment is known ³	Percentage of looked after children with an Ofsted judgement before 31 March 2011 of: ⁴			
			Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
Devon	255	215	16	56	23	4
Dorset	130	115	33	50	14	x
Gloucestershire	200	170	22	43	27	8
Isles of Scilly	0	0	.	.	.	.
North Somerset	105	95	14	56	27	x
Plymouth	180	150	31	46	21	x
Poole	70	60	24	39	18	19
Somerset	175	135	15	46	38	x
South Gloucestershire	70	50	33	29	35	x
Swindon	120	110	12	62	27	0
Torbay	100	95	24	49	19	7
Wiltshire	175	150	27	39	31	x

¹ Children looked after continuously for at least twelve months as at 31 March excluding those children in respite care.

² The number of children aged 5 to 15 looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March 2011, including those for whom it was not possible to identify the school attended.

³ The number of children for whom it has been possible to identify the school attended and the outcome of the most recent Ofsted inspection before 31 March 2011. It is not always possible to identify which school a child attends, perhaps because a Unique Pupil Number has not been provided to enable a successful match. Similarly, it has not been possible to match an Ofsted report to 2600 children. The majority of these children (2170) attend schools converting to academy status and it is likely that they had not been inspected in the period before March 2011 because they would not be due for inspection until the new school had reached a steady state.

⁴ Percentages are based on the number of children for who it has been possible to identify the school attended and the outcome of the most recent Ofsted inspection before 31 March 2011.

National and Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Local Authority figures have been

rounded to the nearest 5. x = number less than or equal to 5, or percentage where the numerator is less than or equal to 5 or the denominator is less than or equal to 10 which have been suppressed to protect confidentiality.

. = not applicable.

Children: Offences against Children Question

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offences against children were committed in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 up until the last year for which records are available. [HL2064]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): It is not possible to identify the total number of offences committed against children from the police recorded crime data collected by the Home Office.

In general, the age of the victim cannot be identified from the police recorded crime data and whether the victim of a crime was a child can only be determined by the definition of specific individual offence classifications. The available data for those offences are given in the table.

Specific offences against children recorded by the police in Lincolnshire

Year	Infanticide	Cruelty to and neglect of children	Abandoning child under two years	Child abduction	Sexual assault on a male child under 13	Rape of a female child under 16	Rape of a female child under 13	Rape of a male child under 16
1996	0	3	..	..	..	..
1997 ¹	0	2	..	..	..	..
1998/99	..	24	1	6	..	..	..	..
1999/00	..	13	1	2	..	..	..	..
2000/01	..	16	1	1	..	..	..	..
2001/02 ²	..	13	0	1	..	..	..	..

Specific offences against children recorded by the police in Lincolnshire

<i>Year</i>	<i>Infanticide</i>	<i>Cruelty to and neglect of children</i>	<i>Abandoning child under two years</i>	<i>Child abduction</i>	<i>Sexual assault on a male child under 13</i>	<i>Rape of a female child under 16</i>	<i>Rape of a female child under 13</i>	<i>Rape of a male child under 16</i>
2002/03	0	23	0	5	..	..	..	..
2003/04	0	28	0	8	..	..	..	..
2004/05 ³	0	28	0	17	17	57	21	5
2005/06	0	16	1	6	25	43	14	4
2006/07	0	19	1	5	15	41	10	1
2007/08	0	20	1	10	14	43	20	2
2008/09	0	37	1	7	10	39	18	1
2009/10	0	36	1	11	16	37	25	2
2010/11	0	30	0	18	0	28	40	4
2011/12	1	31	1	5	0	28	34	3

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rape of a male child under 13</i>	<i>Sexual assault on a female child under 13</i>	<i>Unlawful sexual intercourse / Sexual activity involving a child under 13</i>	<i>Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16</i>	<i>Sexual activity involving child under 16</i>	<i>Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography</i>	<i>Gross indecency with a child</i>
1996	..	..	3	27	..	..	11
1997 ¹	..	..	2	26	..	..	11
1998/99	..	..	4	25	..	..	27
1999/00	..	..	2	20	..	..	14
2000/01	..	..	1	8	..	..	19
2001/02 ²	..	..	3	21	..	..	23
2002/03	..	..	5	25	..	..	32
2003/04	..	..	0	24	..	..	21
2004/05 ³	1	78	11	7	60	1	9
2005/06	7	80	33	0	43	1	6
2006/07	5	72	17	1	34	2	6
2007/08	2	61	27	0	39	7	10
2008/09	9	47	35	0	47	5	5
2009/10	7	41	37	..	55	0	..
2010/11	7	28	50	..	82	1	..
2011/12	10	59	24	..	35	9	..

¹ The police recorded crime coverage was extended and the counting rules changed in 1998/99. Data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

² The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally in 2002/03 and police recorded crime figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

³ The Sexual Offences Act 2002, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. For some offences it took time for these changes to bed in.

China

Questions

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about the Tibetan monk, Lobsang Lozin, who self-immolated at Tsodun Kirti monastery in Tibet; and what representations they have made to the Government of China about the immolation of Tibetan monks.

[HL1758]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are aware of reports that on 17 July, Lobsang Lozin, an 18 year-old monk from the Gedhen Tashi Choeling Kirti monastery in Barkham, Aba Prefecture, Sichuan Province, self-immolated outside the assembly hall of his monastery. Chinese state media has not confirmed reports that he has died.

We have been robust in raising our concerns about the human rights situation in Tibet with the Chinese Government, in particular the large number of self-immolations that have occurred in Tibetan areas since March last year. We are deeply concerned about the immolations and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) set out our concerns most recently in Parliament on 20 June.

In common with its international partners, the UK has raised our concerns with the Chinese authorities. We urge them to lift restrictions on access to Tibetan areas imposed on foreigners, including diplomats and international media. We call upon all parties to engage

in substantive dialogue to address Tibetan concerns and relieve tension. We believe a long-term solution depends on respect for human rights and genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the framework of the Chinese constitution.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions they have drawn about the right to freedom of religious belief in China from the cases of Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin, Bishop Su Zhimin and Bishop Shi Enxiang. [HL1952]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We have serious concerns about freedom of religion in China, including government restrictions on religious organisations and the treatment of individuals associated with these groups including these cases.

The prohibition of some religious groups, and the legal restrictions and harassment aimed at others, undermines freedom of religious belief in China, a point officials raised with the Chinese delegation at the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2012. We have repeatedly made clear that such actions are not consistent with Article 18 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, nor indeed with Article 36 of the People's Republic of China's Constitution.

We are concerned by the cases of Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin, Bishop Su Zhimin and Bishop Shi Enxiang and will continue to seek opportunities to raise our concerns about individual cases and on issues relating to freedom of religious belief with the Chinese Government.

Cities: Economic Development

Question

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each of the recently announced City Deals, how much of the resources allocated will be provided by way of government grant and how much by permitted borrowing by the relevant local authorities. [HL1971]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): City Deals are bespoke agreements in which the Government agreed to proposals initiated by individual cities. They are not about the allocation of government grant but the devolution of powers to cities.

Commonwealth

Question

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the Commonwealth Secretariat plays a significant role in the co-ordination of member countries' policies within the United Nations and other international organisations, including on human rights, global finance, trade,

environment and climate change, arms control, the arms trade, non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, food security, education, migration and refugees. [HL2067]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The UK is committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth realises its potential fully and maximises its impact for the benefit of all member states. We welcomed the series of reforms recommended by the Eminent Persons Group at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth. Amongst these, we supported a recommendation that the Commonwealth Secretariat should strengthen its strategic partnerships with the United Nations and other international organisations, and advocacy on behalf of its members within these organisations on areas of particular relevance to Commonwealth states. It is also positive that the initial discussion paper on the secretariat's new strategic plan for 2013-16 referred to a strengthening of such strategic partnerships. We look forward to engaging with Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in New York in September 2012 to conclude the modernisation agenda which was discussed by heads in Perth.

Crime: Burglary

Question

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many burglary offences were committed in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 up until the last year for which records are available. [HL2059]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The available information relates to burglary offences recorded by the police in Lincolnshire and is given in the table.

Burglary offences recorded by the police in Lincolnshire

Year	Number of offences
1996	12,819
1997	10,551 ¹
1998/99	10,257
1999/00	10,719
2000/01	9,583
2001/02	9,592 ²
2002/03	10,831
2003/04	9,052
2004/05	7,306
2005/06	7,145
2006/07	6,601
2007/08	5,751
2008/09	6,300
2009/10	5,820
2010/11	6,390
2011/12	6,222

¹ The police recorded crime coverage was extended and the counting rules changed in 1998/99. Data before and after that date are not directly comparable.

² The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally in 2002/03 and police recorded crime figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crime: Drugs and Alcohol

Question

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) arrests, and (2) detentions, for drug and alcohol-related crimes involved Asian girls and young women in each of the last two years. [HL2076]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The level of information requested is not collected centrally. Arrests and detentions data supplied to the Home Office by police forces cannot be broken down to show whether offences were alcohol or drug-related.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Question

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much criminal injuries compensation has been awarded to victims in each year from 1996 up until the last year for which records are available in each of the 43 police force areas in England and Wales. [HL2063]

Lord Newby: I have placed the information in the House of Lords Library. The figures given reflect awards paid under the tariff schemes first introduced in 1996.

Cuba

Question

Asked by *Lord Alderdice*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statements of the family and supporters of Oswaldo Paya Sardinias that the Government of Cuba were responsible for his recent death, the death of his party colleague Harold Cepero, and the injury of two foreign politicians, Angel Carronero from Spain and Jens Aron Modig from Sweden. [HL2078]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are aware of the comments made by the family of Oswaldo Paya Sardinias and supporters regarding the nature of his death. Our embassy in Havana is monitoring the situation closely in conjunction with European Union partners and will continue to do so. The embassy has also been in contact with Mr Paya's family to offer our condolences and a member of the embassy's staff attended the wake. The Minister of State, my honourable friend the Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), also issued a statement of condolence on 24th July.

Cybercrime

Question

Asked by *Lord Empey*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what resources they have allocated to protect the United Kingdom from the effects of cyber attacks on the United Kingdom's defence capability. [HL1990]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): As we set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review, we attach a high priority to the cyberdefence of our systems. Our forces depend on computer networks, both in the UK and on operations around the world, but our adversaries present an advanced and rapidly developing threat to these networks.

This is reflected in the establishment of the Global Operations Security Control Centre to co-ordinate cyberdefence of our systems. In addition to this, the Defence Cyber Security Programme (DCSP) aims to mainstream cybersecurity throughout the Ministry of Defence and ensure the coherent integration of cyberactivities across the spectrum of defence operations. The DCSP is funded as part of the Cabinet Office's National Cyber Security Programme, and will run from 2011-2015 with an allocation of £90 million of new money.

We are also making significant investments into new cybercapabilities from the core defence budget, including a further £30 million of additional funding.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Questions

Asked by *Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the UK's bilateral aid, and what proportion of the total aid programmes of Western nations to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is being used for security sector reform. [HL1953]

Baroness Northover: For the purposes of this response, security sector reform (SSR) has been defined as police and army and the justice system reform. 10% of the UK's £145 million bilateral aid programme budget for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) this year is allocated to police reform. In addition, the UK also supports security sector reform (SSR) in DRC through the conflict pool (CP). Of the £1.6 million spent on SSR activities last year through the CP, only £400,000 was official overseas development assistance (ODA).

Unfortunately, accurate information about the proportion of aid from Western nations dedicated to SSR is not available. The two largest donors operating in the sector are the European Union (EU) and the USA. The EU also has two SSR missions, EUSEC and EUPOL, in DRC estimated €20.6 million this year. About 10% (€59 million) of the EU's budget for programming in DRC from the Development Fund and Stability instruments is directed at SSR. The USA

budget for SSR in 2012 is approximately US\$26.5 million. (This does not include US Department of Defence funding).

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) troops are based in the Eastern Congo; what discussions they have had with their commanders; and what assistance they are giving them in apprehending Bosco Ntaganda and bringing him before the International Criminal Court. [HL1954]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has 17,041 troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, of which we understand 15,300 are currently located in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu and Orientale. Our embassy in Kinshasa has regular contact with MONUSCO commanders. Their overall priority is the protection of civilians, with wider security sector reform a key element. It is the responsibility of Congolese authorities to apprehend alleged war criminals on its territory, including International Criminal Court-indicted Bosco Ntaganda. MONUSCO, in line with its mandate, stands ready to support action by the Congolese authorities.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the African Union's proposal to send an international force to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to neutralise the M23 Rebels. [HL2052]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We are pleased to note the engagement shown by members of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region during their meeting in Addis Ababa on 11 July, in the margins of the African Union summit. We look forward to hearing in more detail how they plan to take forward their proposal to deploy a force to the border region in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Diego Garcia *Question*

Asked by Baroness Falkner of Margravine

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Howell of Guildford on 13 July (HL Deb, col. 1401), what advice they have received on the legal position on the use by the United States of the British Indian Ocean Territory of Diego Garcia in the case of military action by Israel or the United States against Iran. [HL1970]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): I do not wish to speculate on hypothetical scenarios. The UK's policy on the use of Diego Garcia by the United States (US) is based on the 1966 exchange of notes (updated in 1976 and with subsequent amendments and additions).

The notes allow the US to use the base as a forward operating location for aircraft and ships and require the US to seek prior approval for any operations that they wish to undertake from Diego Garcia.

Drugs *Questions*

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the role of zero-tolerance and abstinence-based treatment in the United Kingdom's drug policy. [HL2073]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding is available for zero-tolerance drugs policies and abstinence-based treatment in the National Health Service. [HL2074]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Government's drug strategy that we published in 2010 sets out how we will help people recover from dependence on drugs and alcohol. In 2012-13 the department allocated £466.7 million to primary care trusts through the pooled treatment budget. Local areas are responsible for using this money to commission the drug treatment services appropriate to the needs of their population. The 2007 United Kingdom guidelines on clinical management of drug misuse and dependence provide advice on when psychosocial interventions should be delivered without concurrent pharmacological interventions.

Asked by Baroness Uddin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of how many girls below the age of 21 are dependent on drugs, according to ethnic origin. [HL2075]

Earl Howe: Information on the number of young people who are dependent on drugs is not collected. Among the small number of young people whose use of drugs is a problem, most have not been using drugs for long enough to become dependent in the way adults can. Further information about substance misuse among young people and its treatment is available at: www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/yp2011/commentaryfinal.pdf

Education: Special Educational Needs and Disability *Question*

Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any meetings have been held between Ministers of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and of the Department for Education to discuss proposed changes to the education of children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities; and whether a group of officials from both departments has been established to oversee the likely impact of the proposals on young people aged between 16 and 25. [HL1857]

Lord Newby: The Government are committed to improving arrangements for children and young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, so that they have the best chance to be healthy, succeed in education, and progress towards independence and employment.

The Minister of State for Children and Families is responsible for education policy and delivery with respect to young people with learning difficulties and disabilities up to age 18, and for 19 to 25 year-olds with a statutory Learning Difficulty Assessment in place.

Officials from the Department for Education hold regular discussions with Ministers and officials from other government departments about the proposals in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper, including the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Children's Minister has also spoken to the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning on several occasions to discuss shared policy interests in this area, including hosting a joint round-table event with college principals and the Association of Colleges to discuss our proposals for young people.

Embryology

Questions

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 11 December 2008 (*WA 8-9*), how many human embryos were created in each year since the commencement of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; what is the latest cumulative number; and how many of those have resulted in live births. [HL1899]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Darzi of Denham on 11 December 2008 (*WA 8-9*), how many animal-human hybrid embryos have been created since the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. [HL1900]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) has advised that the Written Answer provided by Lord Darzi of Denham on 11 December 2008 (*Official Report*, cols. WA 8-9), referred to by the noble Lord, provides the number of embryos created from the commencement of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 until 2007. Figures for the number of embryos created during 2008, 2009, 2010 and the first half of 2011 are set out in the following table:

Year	Embryos created
2008	219,183
2009	238,658
2010	254,055
Jan - Jun 2011	132,589

The HFEA has advised that the number of live births following In vitro fertilisation treatment in each year to 2009 is publicly available in the dataset published alongside the HFEA report Latest UK fertility treatment data and figures: 2009-10. The dataset and report can be found on the HFEA website at: www.hfea.gov.uk. Since the report's publication, a further six months' worth of data has been verified, in line with the HFEA verification schedule, and figures for the first half of 2010 are provided in the following table:

Year	Number of Babies Born
Jan - Jun 2010	8,172

The HFEA has also advised that according to information submitted to the authority by licensed research centres, no human admixed embryos have been created under a HFEA-licensed research project since 1 October 2009.

Employment: Youth Contract

Question

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what engagement they have had with Local Enterprise Partnership leaders in the development and promotion of the Youth Contract. [HL1756]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The department carried out an extensive consultation with a significant number of employers about the design and delivery of the new wage incentive. This included engagement with large and smaller employers, employer representative bodies and Work Programme providers. While we did not specifically consult with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in this instance, the department is keen to work with LEPs to ensure that skills and tackling worklessness are priorities, to support more effective approaches to help people to improve their chances of finding work, making the link between growth, unemployment and social exclusion.

Energy: Electricity

Question

Asked by **Lord Moonie**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the average costs without subsidies used for planning purposes per megawatt hour of electricity generated from (1) existing, and (2) new, (a) nuclear power stations, (b) onshore wind farms, (c) offshore wind farms, (d) gas-fired power stations, (e) coal-fired power stations, and (f) bio-mass fired power stations. [HL2091]

Lord Newby: DECC has published estimates of the future costs of various generation technologies on the DECC website. The most recent estimates can be found in the reports highlighted below:

Annex D of the ‘Government response to the consultation on proposals for the levels of banded support under the Renewables Obligation for the period 2013-17 and the Renewables Obligation Order 2012’ contains the latest levelised cost estimates for selected renewable technologies: http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/consultation/ro_banding/5936-renewables-obligation-consultation-the-government.pdf;

a report by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) (2011) contains the latest levelised cost estimates for selected non-renewable technologies: www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/about-us/economics-social-research/2127-electricity-generation-cost-model-2011.pdf.

For ease of reference, Table I below replicates levelised cost estimates for projects starting in 2011 and 2017 for selected technologies using a simplified assumption of 10% discount rate across technologies to aid high level comparison between technologies.

Table 1: Indicative Levelised Cost Estimates for Selected Electricity Generation Technologies

2010 prices	Source	Projects starting in 2011, £/MWh	Projects starting in 2017, £/MWh
CCGT	PB Power (2011)	77	88
Coal		95	117
Nuclear		74	65
Onshore Wind >5 MW*		101	98
Offshore R2 Wind	RO Banding	126	115
Offshore R3	Review	146	130
Dedicated Biomass >50MW	Government response (2012)	118	117
Dedicated Biomass (0-50MW)		113	112

NB: All estimates are for ‘Nth of a Kind’ (NOAK) projects except nuclear where the first estimate for projects starting in 2011 is based on ‘first of a kind’ estimate and the estimate for projects starting in 2017 is based on a ‘nth of a kind’ estimate. *The estimate for onshore wind is for England and Wales only. Cost estimates for RO Banding review (2012) are in £2010/11 financial year prices.

These levelised costs estimates are highly sensitive to the assumptions used including those on discount rates (for simplicity the table above uses the same discount rate for all technologies as opposed to technology specific discount rates), capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, and load factor. It should be noted that the estimates shown above are indicative estimates of levelised costs and given the uncertainties it is often more appropriate to consider a range of cost estimates.

DECC does not have estimates for the average costs per megawatt hour of electricity generated from existing stations.

Energy: Light Bulbs

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Browning**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what representations the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has received from organisations representing people with medical conditions that may be adversely affected by low energy light bulbs.

[HL2020]

Lord Newby: Officials from Defra and the Department of Health have met and received correspondence from the Spectrum Alliance, which lists its members as: Lupus UK, Eclipse Support Group, XP Support Group, the Skin Care Campaign, ES-UK, Lupus Europe and Migraine Action. Lord Taylor of Holbeach will be meeting representatives of the Spectrum Alliance on 22 August.

Asked by **Baroness Browning**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has held with the Department of Health about possible exemptions on medical grounds for photo-sensitive people when the ban on non-directional lighting is reviewed.

[HL2021]

Lord Newby: Defra and the Department of Health work closely together in developing government policy on artificial lighting. We want to ensure that appropriate lighting solutions remain available for people with light-sensitive health conditions as energy efficient lighting becomes more widely used in the UK.

Commission Regulation 244/2009, which sets minimum standards for the environmental performance of non-directional household lamps, must be reviewed by 2014. The two departments will continue to work closely together to ensure that this review takes full account of the best available scientific evidence about the health effects of artificial light and the needs of those with light-sensitive health conditions.

Energy: Nuclear Power

Question

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what is the estimated cost of storing plutonium at Sellafield for 2013–17.

[HL2057]

Lord Newby: The estimated costs of storing plutonium at Sellafield have not been disclosed as a single line item in the Sellafield Plan, published on 1 August 2011, as they relate in part to commercial contracts with third parties. The Sellafield Plan (a link to the electronic document is included below) contains a section entitled ‘Safe Storage of Pu’ which provides information on this topic. <http://www.sellafieldsites.com/publications/sellafieldplan/SellafieldPlan.pdf>

Energy: Wave and Tidal Power

Question

Asked by **Lord Rana**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the support provided for the development and operation of wind farms, whether they have any plans to provide similar support for tidal and wave technology. [HL2029]

Lord Newby: The renewables obligation (RO) is currently the Government's main mechanism for incentivising the deployment of large-scale renewable electricity deployment including marine technologies. Marine energy has the potential to make a significant contribution to the UK's electricity demand as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 July which announced the results of the RO banding review for the period 2013-17: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/wms_ro_lm/wms_ro_lm.aspx

This increases the level of support for wave and tidal technologies to 5 ROCs/MWh to a project cap of 30MW.

EU: External Action Service

Question

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 13 July (WA 284-5), whether a reporting framework has been established to monitor the three objectives, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has set out for ambassadors and staff in working with European External Action Service delegations. [HL2003]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Government are committed to ensuring that their diplomatic missions overseas work constructively with European Union (EU) delegations in pursuit of the three objectives set out in my previous reply (Official Record 13 July, WA 284-5):

preventing competence creep;
delivering value for money; and

ensuring that EU external action promotes UK security and prosperity.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office regularly asks for and receives reports from our embassies and high commissions on their own performance and that of the local EU Delegation against these objectives. The most recent reporting exercises were carried out in May and July of this year. Posts have also been instructed to work closely with EU Delegations to ensure that the UK is helping to lead and shape EU action locally and that EU Delegations advance our objectives and amplify UK influence with host countries.

First-tier Social Security and Child Support Tribunals

Questions

Asked by **The Countess of Mar**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many registered medical practitioners have participated in First Tier Social Security and Child Support Tribunals in each of the last five years. [HL1904]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many First Tier Social Security and Child Support Tribunals have disclosed their decisions in each of the past five years. [HL1906]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally):

(1) Medical practitioners sit as medically qualified panel members on a range of appeals in the First-tier Tribunal, Social Security and Child Support (SSCS), including disability living allowance, industrial injuries disablement benefit, vaccine damage, compensation recovery and some employment and support allowance appeals where the work capability assessment is a factor. They may be either registered or licensed to practise.

The data management system for the SSCS tribunal is a live database that is continuously updated and it is not possible to extract retrospective figures for the numbers of medical members hearing appeals.

The table below shows approximate numbers of medically qualified panel members at specific points between 2008 and 2012 as recorded in locally held management information.

Number of Tribunal medically qualified panel members 2008-2012

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of medically qualified panel members</i>
2008	621
2009	572
2010	607
2011	681
2012	814

(2) SSCS tribunal decisions are issued to the appellant, their representative (if they have one), and the first-tier agency that made the original decision, either on the day of the appeal hearing or shortly afterwards. The SSCS tribunal does not publish First-tier Social Security and Child Support appeal hearing decisions or disclose them to any other parties.

Flags: Union Flag

Question

Asked by **Lord Lamont of Lerwick**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Ministers, in their next meeting with the chairman of the National Gallery, will inquire why the National Gallery is not flying the Union Flag above its premises during the run-up to the 2012 Olympic Games. [HL1696]

Lord Newby: The matter of whether or not to fly a Union Flag from the National Gallery in the lead up to and during the Olympic Games is a decision for that body. However, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport encourages all bodies to fly the Union Flag all year round.

Food: Security

Questions

Asked by *The Earl of Selborne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is intending to spend in the current financial year on research to promote food security and sustainable production; and which research organisations are undertaking this research.

[HL1993]

Lord Newby: Defra will invest around £60 million in 2011/12 on agriculture and food research underpinning sustainable production and food security. This includes £28 million on farming and food research and the remainder on animal health and welfare.

The names of research organisations undertaking research on completed and on-going projects can be found on the Defra Science Search Web Page using the following link: <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Location=None&Module=FilterSearchNewLook&Completed=0>

Asked by *Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Baroness Northover on 25 July on the Food Security Summit, whether the Prime Minister will announce at the event that as chair of the G8 next year the United Kingdom will press for the development priority to be hunger and nutrition and tackling the structural causes of hunger.

[HL2072]

Baroness Northover: The UK will use its G8 Presidency in 2013 to advance the global development agenda and ensure the G8 delivers on its commitments, including the New Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security. We will set out the UK's priorities for 2013 later this year.

Forced Marriage

Question

Asked by *Baroness Uddin*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been made to date.

[HL2077]

Lord Newby: Since the introduction of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 on 25 November 2008 and up to the end of March 2012, there have been 437 Forced Marriage Protection Orders made.

G8

Question

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the issues of "land grabbing", the improvement of land rights, especially for women, and the structural relationship of land rights to hunger, are on the agendas of both the next G8 meeting to be chaired by the United Kingdom, and the UK high-level meeting on food, to be held during the period of the Olympic Games. [HL1766]

Baroness Northover: The coalition Government recognise that competing pressures on land for food and fuel risk impacting adversely on the food security of the poorest, due to a combination of lack of transparency and good governance and a complex mix of land rights issues. Private sector companies can play a critical role in improving livelihoods and providing job opportunities in developing countries, but such opportunities need to be better harnessed. Within the coalition's emphasis on private sector development, the UK Government also support improved property rights, for example in Rwanda where we are helping at least 6 million landholders obtain formal titles to their land. The UK Government, as part of the G8, welcome the successful negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security and supports the broad-based consultation process and pilot use of the Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment.

The event on hunger during the Olympics will focus on tackling stunting and under-nutrition generally. Although the consideration of land rights is not a specific section of the event, it may be raised as one factor in restricting poorer people's access to sufficient food. The UK Government are still considering what development issues to prioritise for their forthcoming G8 presidency.

Government Departments: Cars

Question

Asked by *Lord Hoyle*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Attlee on 19 July (WA 78), what were the makes and models of cars supplied to each government department by the Government Car and Despatch Agency for use by Ministers in those departments.

[HL1995]

Lord Newby: Ministers at the departments that have taken a departmental pool car from the Government Car and Despatch Agency would have access to the following makes and models of cars, with comparative figures provided for ministerial car allocations as at March 2010:

<i>Department</i>	<i>Number of GCDA ministerial car allocations @ 31/03/10:</i>	<i>Number of GCDA cars allocated to departments for use by Ministers @ July 2012:</i>	<i>July 2012 makes and models:</i>
Cabinet Office	4	1	Toyota Prius
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	7	1	Toyota Prius
Department for Education	6	1	Jaguar XJ
Department for Communities and Local Government	6	2	Land Rover Discovery; Toyota Avensis
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	3	0	n/a
Department for Energy and Climate Change	4	1	Toyota Prius; plug-in hybrid
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2	2	Land Rover Discovery; Toyota Prius
Department for International Development	3	0	n/a
Department for Transport	3	2	Jaguar XF; Toyota Avensis
Department for Work and Pensions	6	1	Jaguar XJ
Department of Health	6	1	Jaguar XJ
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	4	0	n/a
HM Treasury	6	2	Land Rover Discovery; Toyota Prius
Home Office	6	2	Toyota Avensis; Toyota Prius
Law Officers' Department	2	1	Jaguar XF
Ministry of Defence	1	0	n/a
Ministry of Justice	4	1	Jaguar XJ
Northern Ireland Office	2	1	Toyota Prius
Scotland Office	1	0	n/a
Wales Office	2	1	Jaguar XJ
	78	20	

Government Departments: Overseas Offices

Question

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover on 11 July (WA 254-55), whether their Vietnam office will close with the end of their bilateral programme there; whether the base of the UK's Climate Change Unit will change following the announcement by the Department for International Development (DfID) of the closure of the Indonesia bilateral programme; and what is the rationale for a separate DfID office in China and Kosovo following the closure under DfID's bilateral review of the bilateral programmes in both countries. [HL2045]

Baroness Northover: The DfID Vietnam office is due to close with the end of the bilateral programme. Although the DfID Indonesia programme has already closed, there are no plans to change the UK Climate Change Unit.

The DfID bilateral programme in China has closed. The rationale for maintaining a DfID presence in China is to help build a relationship with China to identify ways in which we and they can work together as partners on shared global development objectives such as poverty reduction in third countries or regions.

The DfID Kosovo programme is due to close on 30 November 2012, at which time the office will also close.

Government Departments: Parliamentary Units

Question

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and its predecessor departments, spent on running its Parliamentary Unit in each of the past 10 years for which information is available. [HL1631]

Lord Newby: Parliamentary work is carried out in the Parliamentary and Cabinet Business Team, which is part of the secretariat in core Defra. Costs incurred by the Parliamentary and Cabinet Business Team are not separately identifiable on the department's finance IT system. This has been the case for a number of years and consequently the amount spent on running the unit cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Government Departments: Policy Questions

Asked by **Baroness Morgan of Drefelin**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many full-time equivalent staff in the Department of Health have been tasked with working on cancer policy for each of the past three years. [HL1979]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) in the department working on cancer policy for each of the past three years has been presented in the following table.

<i>Year</i>	<i>FTE staff</i>
2009-10	19.7
2010-11	18.3
2011-12	17.1

Asked by Baroness Morgan of Drefelin

To ask Her Majesty's Government what forecasts have been made of how many full-time equivalent staff in the Department of Health will be tasked with working on cancer policy for each of the next three years. [HL1980]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what forecasts have been made of the numbers of full-time equivalent staff within (1) the NHS Commissioning Board and (2) Public Health England will be tasked with working on cancer policy for each of the next three years. [HL1981]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what forecasts have been made of the numbers of full-time equivalent staff who have worked on cancer policy within the Department of Health and who will be transferred or have been transferred to work on cancer policy within (1) the NHS Commissioning Board, and (2) Public Health England. [HL1982]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The information requested is not available. The process for agreeing the functions transferring from existing to new organisations and the members of staff that transfer with these functions has not been completed. This information will eventually be held by the new organisations that will be responsible for this work.

Once the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England have taken up their responsibilities in this area, the Department of Health will work with them to deliver the commitments set out in *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer*, which was published in 2011. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Government Departments: Staff

Question

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Ursula Brennan, left her post; what was the reason for her departure; what is her new Civil Service post; for how many months she had served as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence; and what has been the average tenure of this post by the previous 10 incumbents. [HL1702]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): Ursula Brennan left her post as Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of

Defence on 29 June 2012 to take up post as the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. Mrs Brennan filled her post in defence for 20 months, having been appointed at the beginning of November 2010. The tenures of the previous 10 incumbents are listed below:

Sir Bill Jeffrey KCB 2005-2010

Sir Kevin Tebbit KCB CMG 1998-2005

Sir Richard Mottram GCB 1995-1998

Sir Christopher France GCB 1992-1995

Sir Michael Quinlan GCB 1988-1992

Sir Clive Whitmore GCB CVO 1983-1988

Rt Hon Sir Frank Cooper GCB CMG 1976-1982

Sir A.L. Michael Cary KCB 1974-1976

Sir L. James Dunnett GCB 1966-1974

CMG Sir Henry Hardman KCB 1963-1966.

Government: Official Visits

Question

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint has paid official visits since his appointment as a Minister of State; what were the dates of those visits; who accompanied him; and what are the estimated costs of each visit. [HL1850]

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint): During my time as Minister for Trade, I have visited a total of 42 countries, including a number of key partner countries more than once. On some of these visits I have been accompanied by a delegation of British businesses, in others I have linked up with trade delegations in country, and in virtually all I have engaged with the British business community. As with all Ministers, my travel is detailed in full on the Cabinet Office website.

Health and Social Care Act 2012

Questions

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government how, following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, they will ensure the allied health professions are adequately represented within (1) the Department of Health, (2) Public Health England, (3) Health Education England, and (4) the regional offices of the National Commissioning Board. [HL1890]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what national and regional leadership roles will exist for allied health professionals within the new National Health Service structures created by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. [HL1957]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Chief Health Professions Officer (CHPO) is the Government's most senior allied health professions adviser. Following the implementation

of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the role is to be retained in the NHS Commissioning Board in order to provide clinical advice and professional leadership. Other organisations within the new health and social care architecture will be able to access to the CHPO's advice, including the department, Public Health England and Health Education England.

We understand the NHS Commissioning Board Authority is currently addressing how best to incorporate leadership roles for allied health professionals within the new National Health Service structures.

Health and Social Care: Northern Ireland

Question

Asked by *The Earl of Listowel*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have commissioned into the virtues of the model of health and social care integration adopted in Northern Ireland. [HL1916]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department has not commissioned research specifically on the model of health and social care integration adopted in Northern Ireland.

We have committed in the care and support White Paper, *Caring for our Future: Reforming Care and Support*, to work with partners (including the NHS Commissioning Board, Monitor and local government) to co-produce a framework that will support the removal of barriers to making evidence-based integrated support the norm. Development of this work will include looking at integration exemplars, including those from other countries with different care systems, to draw on their examples and lessons to further develop the case for change and to promote more integrated care in England.

Health: Allergies

Questions

Asked by *The Earl of Dundee*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the diagnosis and cure of allergies. [HL2092]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are proposing to improve the systems for training and sharing information between health professionals responsible for the diagnosis and cure of allergies. [HL2093]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department funded a project in the North West Strategic Health Authority to pilot the concept of an integrated regional service for allergy and immunotherapy services, and the "lessons learned" report has been widely disseminated. This includes recommendations specifically on training and information sharing for health professionals involved in the care of people with allergies. We expect local and national commissioners to take full account of this report in developing allergy services in the light of local needs and priorities.

Health: Defibrillators

Questions

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress the National Defibrillator Programme has made in installing automatic external defibrillators. [HL2068]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they monitor the National Defibrillator Programme and if so, how. [HL2069]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department is not responsible for the provision of automatic external defibrillators.

From February 2007, responsibility for continuing the legacy of the National Defibrillator Programme was devolved to ambulance trusts.

Health: HIV/AIDS

Question

Asked by *Lord Black of Brentwood*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to tackle the issue of stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS in the United Kingdom. [HL1984]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The department has recently awarded a new contract to the Terrence Higgins Trust for a national programme of HIV prevention for men who have sex with men, and people from black African communities, the groups most at risk from HIV. One of the programme's objectives is to reduce the stigma linked to HIV.

The African Health Policy Network, through the previous departmental national HIV prevention programme, produced resources for Christian and Muslim faith leaders and African community-based organisations. These faith toolkits are used to increase levels of awareness around HIV and to change perceptions of HIV and Africans in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the department's planned sexual health policy document will consider how work can be undertaken at all levels to reduce and challenge HIV stigma.

Health: Musculoskeletal Conditions

Question

Asked by *Baroness Brinton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government who leads on (1) musculoskeletal conditions, and (2) research, at the NHS Commissioning Board. [HL1930]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): We understand that both musculoskeletal conditions and research are likely to fall within the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board's medical director, Sir Bruce Keogh. Detailed portfolios within the board's medical directorate have not been finalised but it is likely that issues on musculoskeletal conditions would in the first instance fall to the clinical lead for domain 2 of the NHS outcomes framework, improving the quality of life for people with long-term conditions.

Health: Pre-natal Diagnostic Tests

Question

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the past 12 months, any concerns have been raised by the United Kingdom National Screening Committee over the accuracy of pre-natal tests, especially biochemical serum tests. [HL1898]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the National Health Service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy and supports implementation. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, the committee assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria. Screening can never be 100% accurate and that is why screening programmes are subject to very strict evaluation, and independent expert advice from the UK NSC, before they are introduced, in order to ensure they do more good than harm at a reasonable cost.

The NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme is aware of an issue with some laboratory machines providing extreme biases when analysing biochemical assays. The NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme is working with manufacturers on behalf of the laboratories to identify the reasons for this and improve the accuracy of the biochemical serum test.

Health: Rheumatoid Arthritis

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Brinton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis in (1) England, and (2) the United Kingdom; and what is their estimate of the number of people diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in the last year in (a) England, and (b) the United Kingdom. [HL1927]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimated, in its 2009 clinical guideline, that there were about 400,000 people with rheumatoid arthritis in the United Kingdom, with about 12,000 people developing the disease each year. These figures would equate to a prevalence of about 335,000 and an annual incidence of about 10,000 for England. Estimates for individual years are not available.

Asked by **Baroness Brinton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were receiving biologics as part of their treatment for rheumatoid arthritis in the last financial year; and what was the estimated cost to the National Health Service. [HL1928]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of trusts who prescribe biologics in accordance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for rheumatoid arthritis. [HL1929]

Earl Howe: Information is not held centrally on the number of people treated. The following table provides information on the use of biologics for the calendar year 2011, the latest available matching period for primary and secondary care data.

Biologic medicines - use and cost, England 2011¹⁻²

Care setting	Prescription items (000s) ³	Volume by number of packs (000s)	Cost MON ^{4,5}
Primary care	18.9	n/a	22,190.7
Secondary care	n/a	14,595.7	658,304.6

Sources: Prescription Cost Analysis, IMS HEALTH; Hospital Pharmacy Audit

Notes:

¹ Biologics drugs are defined in part of the British National Formulary (BNF) section 10.1.3 under Cytokine modulators. The drugs are abatacept, adalimumab, anakinra, belimumab, certolizumab pegol, etanercept, golimumab, infliximab, rituximab and tocilizumab.

² Some medicines such as some within the defined biologics group can be delivered directly to the patient by commercial companies under 'homecare' arrangements managed by hospitals. There are no separate 'homecare' figures available for these medicines.

³ Primary care - number of prescription items written in the UK and dispensed, in the community, in England.

⁴ Primary care - net ingredient cost.

⁵ Secondary care - cost at National Health Service list price, which is not necessarily the price the hospital paid.

No assessment has been made of the number of NHS trusts that have prescribed biologics in accordance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for rheumatoid arthritis.

NICE clinical guidelines are based on an assessment of the best available evidence and are developed through wide consultation with stakeholders. They represent best practice and we expect commissioners and clinicians to take them into account in their decision-making.

Healthcare: Costs

Question

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Earl Howe on 25 June (WA 25-6), what is the text of the 18-month deadline under new European Union (EU) Regulation 883/2004, which refers to the date the claim is submitted to the United Kingdom; and for each EU country what were the actual pensioner healthcare payments for UK state pensions and the average pensioner healthcare charge in the last two years. [HL2015]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Article 66(5) of Regulation 987/2009 states: “the claims shall be paid to the liaison body of the creditor member state referred to in Article 66 of the implementing Regulation by the debtor institution within 18 months of the end of the month during which they were introduced to the liaison body of the debtor member state. This does not apply to the claims which the debtor institution has rejected for a relevant reason within that period”.

The most recently published average pensioner healthcare costs for each Member State is shown in the following table:

Country	Currency	Local Currency	Annual costs shown in euros	Year published
Norway	NOK	80,908.00	10,903.32	2010
Netherlands	EURO		9,902.78	2010
Luxembourg	EURO		9,055.18	2009
Liechtenstein	CHF	8,966.77	7,466.09	2010
Ireland	EURO		6,789.44	2004
Switzerland	CHF	7,387.12	6,150.81	2010
Belgium	EURO		5,370.12	2009
France	EURO		5,352.79	2009
Sweden	SEK	46,803.45	5,605.51	2009
Germany	EURO		5,153.21	2010
Finland	EURO		4,805.50	2010
Austria	EURO		4,862.23	2010
Spain	EURO		3,869.77	2010
Italy	EURO		2,898.29	2010
Greece	EURO		2,983.55	2009
Portugal	EURO		2,030.92	2009
Czech Republic	CZK	47,610.70	1,879.10	2010
Slovenia	EURO		1,842.04	2010
Malta	EURO		1,572.64	2007
Slovakia	EURO		1,534.79	2010
Cyprus	EURO		1,118.37	2009
Estonia	EURO		979.46	2009
Poland	PLN	3,589.80	871.14	2009
Hungary	HUF	246,892.00	879.46	2009
Lithuania	LTL	2,652.17	768.12	2009
Latvia	LVL	398.89	572.62	2008
United Kingdom	GBP	3,852.77	4,893.65	2009

Note: For non-EURO countries the exchange rate has been taken as of 27 July 2012

Total payments to Member States for healthcare provided to UK state pensioners are shown in the following table (all figures in local currency):

<i>Figures in local currencies</i>			
Claim By	2010-11 Total	2011-12 Total	
Austria	1,494,483	3,619,435	
Belgium	245,914	2,215,299	
Cyprus	5,676,895	228,279	
Czech Republic	967,272	1,648,980	
France	48,952,661	138,485,038	
Germany	5,201,171	9,482,607	

Figures in local currencies

Claim By	2010-11 Total	2011-12 Total
Greece	2,718,024	3,943,650
Ireland	290,147,269	286,991,211
Italy	369,989	4,744,048
Lithuania		22,723
Luxembourg		151,246
Netherlands		1,395,035
Portugal	2,200,227	2,354,469
Slovenia	61,904	2,666
Spain	84,472,286	119,565,896
Sweden	6,754,412	20,307
Switzerland	1,494,739	1,700,918

HMS “Victory”

Question

Asked by **Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Astor of Haver on 22 May (WA 49), whether they have authorised any further operations by the company Odyssey Marine Exploration on the wreck of HMS “Victory”; whether those operations have been discussed in advance with the advisory group established by the Government to advise Ministers on the treatment of the wreck; and what sanctions are available to deter companies from acting without the prior approval of Ministers following the advice of the advisory group for the actions proposed. [HL1722]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Haver): I refer the noble Lord to the answer given by my right honourable friend the Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans (Andrew Robathan) in the other place on 17 July 2012, (*Official Report*, col. 760W).

We are currently considering a request from the Maritime Heritage Foundation for further work on the HMS Victory site. This request has been discussed with the advisory group established to advise both Ministers and the Maritime Heritage Foundation on the treatment of the wreck. The deed of gift, which is available at <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/MaritimePublications/HmsVictory1744AdvisoryGroup.htm>, states: “the Company agrees not to disturb, remove from the seabed, sell, charge, lease, give or otherwise dispose of anything hereby transferred”. Any activity undertaken without the approval of the Secretary of State would be a breach of the terms of the deed of gift, for which legal remedies would be available.

Homosexuality

Question

Asked by **Lord Black of Brentwood**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had recently with Governments in Commonwealth countries where homosexuality is illegal about the application of international human rights law on this issue. [HL1986]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): In recent months, the Minister for Africa raised concerns regarding a Private Members' Bill to strengthen anti-homosexuality legislation with the President of Uganda. The Minister for Equalities also raised these concerns with the Vice President and Speaker for Parliament during a recent visit to Kampala. In The Gambia, our High Commissioner delivered a *démarche* to the Gambian Minister of Foreign Affairs protesting against the trial of 20 Gambians arrested for allegedly committing "unnatural offences". Human Rights issues were also discussed at the European Union's (EU) Article 8 political dialogue which was held between EU member states and the Government of Gambia in June.

The Commonwealth is a valuable partner in promoting human rights globally, and in helping to deliver UK human rights policy. We are committed to working with the Commonwealth and its partners to help them uphold values of human rights, rule of law, democracy and development. We regularly raise human rights issues with the Commonwealth Secretariat and with member states. We seek to increase debate on these issues, including on sexual orientation or gender identity, within and among Commonwealth countries.

Horses

Question

Asked by *Lord Higgins*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Transportation Agreement between France, Ireland and the United Kingdom, designed to facilitate the transport of competition and other high-value horses between the three countries, was extended to cover low value horses which may come from Eastern Europe and elsewhere; what assessment they have made of the risk that this may result in the spread of disease among horses in the UK; and whether they have plans to open negotiations immediately with the objective of returning the agreement to its original form. [HL2089]

Lord Newby: The Tripartite Agreement is a long-standing agreement between France, the Republic of Ireland and the UK. Under the original agreement registered equidae, usually for competition and racing, were able to move freely between the signatory countries based on shared health status. The agreement does not remove the need to comply with EU welfare in transport legislation. In 2005, due to its success, it was expanded to include equidae for "breeding and production", covering among others ponies for leisure and has continued to work well. The agreement continues to be tripartite and only between the three signatory countries.

Romania acceded to the EU in 2007 and at present is subject to required EU restrictions on the movement of horses.

There is a balance between facilitating free trade of horses that need to move regularly and recognising the risk of importation of disease. Defra continually monitors and assesses the UK risk from disease outbreaks in the EU and beyond.

House of Lords: Apprentices

Question

Asked by *Lord Adonis*

To ask the Chairman of Committees whether the House of Lords Administration will consider establishing an apprenticeship scheme within the employment of the House, to start no later than spring 2013. [HL2025]

The Chairman of Committees (Lord Sewel): The House of Lords Administration has no current plans to establish an apprenticeship scheme before the spring of 2013, but I have asked the Clerk of the Parliaments to examine whether it would be possible to introduce such a scheme.

The Administration runs training schemes for certain groups of staff including staff in Catering and Retail Services, the Parliamentary Archives, the Finance Department and the Human Resources Office. These schemes involve sponsored study with day-release or study leave and lead to recognised professional qualifications. The Administration also has a generous scheme of support for further and higher education. The Administration does not run any craft apprenticeships because it does not employ any staff in the building and allied trades. The Parliamentary Estates Directorate, which is a department of the House of Commons, is responsible for the maintenance of the Parliamentary Estate.

House of Lords: Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint

Question

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask the Leader of the House, further to his answer on 23 July (HL Deb, col. 481-4), on what basis he considers that Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint could have answered a maximum of three oral questions on behalf of his department. [HL2070]

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Strathclyde): Lord Green has answered oral questions from Lord Alton of Liverpool (9 March 2011) and Lord Bates (8 March 2012). He did not answer an oral question from Lord Harrison (28 June 2012) which raised matters related to UKTI's remit. Other oral questions answered by BIS Ministers in the House over the period in question did not relate to UKTI's remit. That was the context for my remarks.

House of Lords: Members' Surveys

Questions

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask the Chairman of Committees what was the cost of the recent Members' survey on the facilities and services in the House of Lords conducted by BMG Research; why the survey could not have been produced in-house; and what was the purpose of the question on ethnic origin. [HL1926]

The Chairman of Committees (Lord Sewel): It is expected that the Members' survey will cost approximately £15,000, but this will depend on the amount of additional analysis which the Administration commission after reviewing the survey results. An external provider has been employed to conduct the survey and process the results in order to ensure that all responses are dealt with anonymously and so that the results can be properly and independently validated.

The House Administration are keen to ensure that all Members receive a good service, and it may be useful to analyse the results in order to identify whether there are particular trends within particular groups of Members. Therefore, at the end of the survey form, Members are asked a number of questions which will enable the results to be sorted by particular categories while preserving Members' confidentiality.

Asked by Lord Stoddart of Swindon

To ask the Chairman of Committees why the options provided for answering question 27 of the Members' survey on the facilities and services in the House of Lords, asking Members to indicate their ethnic origin, were White, White Other, Mixed background, Black or Black British, Asian or Asian British (including Chinese), Other and Prefer not to say. [HL1958]

The Chairman of Committees (Lord Sewel): In order for the House Administration to assess whether all Members receive a good service, at the end of the Members' survey there are a number of optional questions which will enable the Administration to analyse whether there are particular trends of answers from particular groups of Members. The options provided were based on advice from the external survey provider. Unfortunately there was an error in question 27 and the first option should have been "White British" rather than "White".

Houses of Parliament: Sitting Days

Question

Asked by Lord Grocott

To ask the Leader of the House, further to his answer on 17 July (HL Deb, col. 111) on the sitting arrangements of the two Houses, whether he will identify the comparative costs of (1) both Houses sitting during the same two weeks, and (2) one sitting independently for two weeks, then the other sitting independently for two weeks, including in the analysis the costs incurred by the (a) opening hours of refreshment facilities, (b) opening hours of Library and research facilities, (c) availability of the services of Clerks in the two Houses, and (d) costs of scheduling building and refurbishment works. [HL2058]

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Strathclyde): I refer the noble Lord to the answer he received from the Chairman of Committees on 16 February (HL Hansard col. WA 179).

I am not, as Leader of the House, responsible for the administration of the House: that falls to the House Committee, whose spokesman is the Chairman of Committees.

Houses of Parliament: Ticket Sales

Question

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask the Chairman of Committees how much profit Parliament made through sales of tickets to Parliament over the Summer Recesses of 2009, 2010 and 2011. [HL1818]

The Chairman of Committees (Lord Sewel): The surplus of income recovered by Parliament over attributed costs during the Summer Recesses in question was £114,809 in 2009, £102,125 in 2010 and £188,246 in 2011.

Houses of Parliament: Ticketmaster

Question

Asked by Lord Hoyle

To ask the Chairman of Committees what criteria are used to judge the performance of Ticketmaster in its fulfilment of its contract with the Houses of Parliament. [HL1994]

Lord Sewel: Ticketmaster is contracted by Parliament to provide ticketing for Parliament's commercial tours. This includes online, phone and group sales and also the provision of software and hardware for the onsite ticket office. Ticketmaster is also contracted to provide technical support, event management and marketing support. The fulfilment of the contract is based upon the delivery of these services, and a service level agreement covers the following criteria:

- payment of moneys received;
- provision of management information;
- the issue of tickets to customers;
- quality control (via envelope checks);
- customer phone hold times;
- phone abandonment rate; and
- customer complaints.

Human Trafficking

Question

Asked by Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Welsh Government's anti-human trafficking co-ordinator established in April 2011; and whether they are considering making a similar appointment in England. [HL1962]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): An assessment of the work of the Welsh Government's anti-human trafficking co-ordinator will be made as part of the first report of the Inter-Departmental

Ministerial Group (IDMG) on Human Trafficking, due to be published in October 2012. A national anti-human trafficking co-ordinator will not be appointed in England. The IDMG co-ordinates work on trafficking across the UK and performs the national rapporteur function in compliance with the EU directive on trafficking in human beings.

Immigration Question

Asked by **Lord King of West Bromwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have entered the United Kingdom in each of the last five years from (1) the European Union, (2) the Commonwealth, and (3) the rest of the world. [HL1752]

Lord Newby: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your parliamentary Question to Her Majesty's Government, asking how many people have entered the United Kingdom in each of the last five years from (1) the European Union, (2) the Commonwealth, and (3) the rest of the world [HL1752].

Estimates are published in two forms: first, the number of overseas travel and tourism visits to the UK of less than 12 months in duration which are completed in the reporting year and are based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS); and, secondly, the number of people migrating to the UK for 12 months or more (long-term international migration) during the reporting year and are based on the IPS plus adjustments. The most recent year for which both sets of estimates are available is 2010.

Table 1: Number of visits to the UK (in '000s) in the last five years

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	21214	21800	21610	20307	20244
Commonwealth	3557	3403	3415	3027	3174
Rest of the World	7942	7576	6862	6555	6385

Source: *International Passenger Survey*

Table 2: Number of people migrating to the UK (in '000s) in the last five years

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
European Union	210	220	224	198	208
Commonwealth	219	200	196	204	219
Rest of the World	167	154	171	164	163

Source: *Long-Term International Migration (LTIM)*

Internet: Domain Names Question

Asked by **Lord Harris of Haringey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of accuracy being achieved in the recording and storing of the contact details of owners of .uk domain names; what discussions they have had with Nominet about that issue; and whether they will ask Nominet to publish the report that they have commissioned into the accuracy of the data on contact details. [HL1869]

Lord Newby: No assessment has been made of the level of accuracy being achieved in the recording and storing of the contact details of owners of .uk domain names (known as the WHOIS). Officials at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have regular informal discussions with Nominet on a range of issues, and accuracy of WHOIS data is something that is discussed from time to time. Nominet is a private company, and as such, it would not be appropriate for the Government to request that it publishes research which was undertaken as part of the work it is doing to improve WHOIS accuracy.

Isle of Sark Question

Asked by **Lord Prescott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 23 July (WA 109), what financial assistance has been given to the Isle of Sark in fulfilling its constitutional obligations on behalf of the Crown for each year since 2008. [HL2054]

Lord Newby: The UK Government have given no financial assistance to Sark in fulfilling its constitutional obligations on behalf of the Crown. Costs have, however, been incurred by the UK Government in defending applications for judicial review in the courts of the United Kingdom, challenging specific decisions to recommend that legislation passed by the Chief Pleas of Sark should receive the Royal Assent which is necessary for that legislation to come into force. Information is not available broken down by year, but the costs incurred by the UK Government since 2008 in such cases, including those presently under way, amount to approximately £199,000, of which £44,000 has been recovered by the UK Government under costs orders made by the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Israel Questions

Asked by **Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel in relation to the lifting of the blockade of Gaza and their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. [HL1925]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): In close co-ordination with our European Union partners and the Office of the Quartet Representative, the UK regularly makes representations at both ministerial and official level to the Government of Israel on the urgent need to ease restrictions on Gaza.

We are clear that Israeli restrictions on movements of goods and people do serious damage to the economy and living standards of ordinary people in Gaza. The current situation fosters radicalisation and empowers Hamas. An improved economy is not only essential for the people of Gaza, but firmly in Israel's security interests.

Most recently our ambassador to Israel and Consulate General in Jerusalem discussed our concerns about the situation in Gaza with the Coordinator of the Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) Major General Dangot on 16 July.

We regularly raise the treatment of children in the OPTs with the Israeli authorities, including in Gaza. UK financial assistance supports the Palestinian Authority and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to provide primary healthcare and hospital care to Gazans. This includes support to construct fourteen new UNRWA schools in Gaza and supporting 28,000 refugee children to attend school. While we have not discussed the rights of children under the specific auspices of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, we have discussed in detail issues affecting children, including themes relating to the convention. Issues discussed include ensuring development and increasing the standard of living for children in Gaza, ensuring protection for Gazan children from war, conflict and violence and ensuring that Gazan children have access to education.

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Exeter

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implementation by the Government of Israel of the recommendations made by the 2003 Or Commission to tackle discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel. [HL1938]

Lord Howell of Guildford: There have been key changes in Israel since the Or Commission's report such as:

- ending the use of live fire as a means of crowd control;
- an increased police presence which has seen the number of police stations in Israeli Arab areas rise from three to 105;
- a corresponding increase in non-Jewish recruitment, from 0.1 percent to 8.9 percent; and,
- better police liaison with Israeli Arab municipalities and community leaders.

In contrast, few of Or's recommendations on the socio-economic causes of Israeli Arab frustration have been addressed. We continue to urge the Israeli Government to implement the recommendations made by the 2003 Or Commission, specifically to address (i) economic disparities; and (ii) unequal access to land and housing.

In general we condemn all instances of inequality and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith, ethnicity or nationality. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate-General in Jerusalem, as elsewhere, monitor and raise concerns over human rights with host Governments, including discrimination and freedom of religion or belief when appropriate.

We have also supported projects aimed at tackling discrimination between Jewish and Arab communities in Israel. In 2011 the UK sponsored a £40,000 project for Israeli and Palestinian religious leaders to join a multi-sector leaders' network that aims to advance peace in the region.

Asked by Lord Judd

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds they supported the recent upgrading of relations between the European Union and Israel. [HL1969]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The European Union (EU)-Israel Association Council at its regular meeting on 24 July discussed some practical co-operation measures in line with the existing EU-Israel Action Plan. It does not represent an upgrade or any major broadening of EU-Israel relations. The EU has been very clear that no progress can be made on upgrading the wider EU-Israel relationship until there is substantial progress towards a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is a position the UK supports.

Israel and Palestine: West Bank

Question

Asked by Lord Steel of Aikwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking within the European Union to address the alleged destruction by Israeli occupation authorities of an agricultural project funded by the European Union near the village of al-Khedr in the occupied West Bank. [HL1877]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Government are concerned about demolitions of Palestinian houses and infrastructure, including projects funded by the European Union (EU) and other European partners, in the West Bank. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) discussed the issue of such demolitions with EU partners at the 14 May EU Foreign Affairs Council. Along with EU partners, we have raised our concerns about demolitions with the Israeli authorities, although we have not raised this particular project with them.

The UK is focused on preventing demolitions of Palestinian property, whether funded by the international community or not. We are working with other EU member states to make clear to Israel the need for significant streamlining of the procedure for Palestinians to gain planning permission in Israeli-controlled areas of the West Bank (specifically Area C) and the need to halt all demolitions until a more effective process is in place.

Legal Aid

Question

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why social security was not included in the current legal aid tender; and what steps are being taken to ensure that providers contracted to undertake legal work in this area are sufficiently specialist and experienced.

[HL1882]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): It has not been possible to include welfare benefit appeals in the current tender round due to the late decision to include this within the scope of the legal aid scheme. My officials and the Legal Services Commission (LSC) are currently considering the most effective way to deliver this service from April 2013. An announcement on this will be made in due course.

Mali

Question

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the security situation in Northern Mali; and what plans they have to contribute to restoring peace to the region.

[HL1856]

Baroness Northover: The United Nations currently estimates that the number of people at risk of food shortages across the Sahel region of West Africa in 2012 is 18 million. Of these, 3.5 million are in Mali.

The security situation in Mali remains of particular concern, and over 415,000 men, women and children have been directly affected by the conflict in the northern regions of the country. Over 260,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries, and over 155,000 people have been internally displaced following months of armed conflict. The deterioration in security conditions has severely limited the humanitarian response by reducing access to those acutely affected by this crisis in the north of the country.

The UK Government are supportive of efforts led by the Economic Community Of West African States and the African Union to bring about a resolution to the crisis in Mali. We will continue to work closely with our international partners, including the United Nations and the European Union, to help return the country to full democracy, including the holding of elections.

Migrant Workers: Bulgarians and Romanians

Question

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom is required by the EU Commission to open its labour market to Bulgarian and Romanian workers by bringing forward the transition date for free access to the labour market for such nationals, and, if so, what was their response.

[HL2014]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The European Commission earlier this year wrote to the Home Secretary acknowledging the labour market reasons for the Government's decision to maintain restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' access to the labour market until the end of 2013, but urging the Government regularly to reassess the labour market position and to consider whether the existing restrictions could be eased before the end of 2013. The Government's response was that they are under no obligation to further review their decision of November 2011 and have no plans to do so.

National Wildlife Crime Unit

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the value of the functions and responsibilities of the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

[HL2086]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

The Home Office and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) works closely with the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) to ensure that its priority work areas support delivery of the Government's wildlife crime priorities. Every six months the NWCU produces a tactical assessment of progress against each of its priority work areas, which is considered by the Home Office, Defra and other members of the UK Wildlife Crime Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the success of the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

[HL2087]

Lord Henley: Every six months the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) produces a tactical assessment of progress against each of its priority work areas. The tactical assessment is considered jointly by the Home Office, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other members of the UK Wildlife Crime Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

Asked by **Baroness Smith of Basildon**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have concerning the role of the National Wildlife Crime Unit over the next five years, and what the funding arrangements will be.

[HL2088]

Lord Henley: We recognise the important role that the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) plays in tackling wildlife crime, and that role will evolve as the wider policing landscape develops. Decisions on government funding for the NWCU beyond 2012-13 will be taken by Ministers later this year.

NHS: Primary Care Trusts Questions

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times since May 2010 they have asked strategic health authorities to investigate the imposition of blanket bans on treatments by primary care trusts. [HL1885]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times since May 2010 they have asked strategic health authorities to investigate the imposition of blanket bans on treatments by primary care trusts on a cost basis unrelated to medical need. [HL1886]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Primary care trusts are responsible for the commissioning of treatment and services, taking into account evidence of best practice and the needs of the local population.

While the department does not routinely collect data on the commissioning decisions of individual primary care trusts, where allegations of blanket bans on treatments are brought to our attention they are investigated. To provide details of all contact with strategic health authorities on this matter would incur disproportionate cost.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken action against a primary care trust because it has refused laparoscopies or X-rays of the uterus on the grounds that they were not permissible as investigations under the National Health Service; and, if so, what action was taken. [HL1888]

Earl Howe: We are not aware of any such action. However, I refer the noble Lord to my previous Answer on this subject on 17 July 2012, *Official Report*, col. 100.

Asked by *Lord Hunt of Kings Heath*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that all decisions to restrict patient treatments made by primary care trusts or clinical commissioning groups will be made in public. [HL1889]

Earl Howe: Section 2A of the NHS Constitution gives patients the right "to expect local decisions on funding of other drugs and treatments to be made rationally following a proper consideration of the evidence". Guidance to commissioners on the principles to be followed in local decision-making was set out in a handbook published by the National Prescribing Centre and the department in January 2009. This advises commissioners that they should "communicate clearly with stakeholders including the wider National Health Service, patients and the public. Communication should include the processes, decisions and the rationale for decisions, while maintaining appropriate confidentiality".

Nigeria Question

Asked by *Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Government of Nigeria concerning the suspension of the Rifkatu Samson Danna from Bauchi State House of Assembly. [HL2034]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): Our commission in Abuja is aware of the suspension of Honourable Rifkatu Samson Danna from the Bauchi State House of Assembly. This is an internal matter for the assembly.

North Africa: Landmines Question

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to deal with the remaining landmines laid in North Africa by Allied and Axis forces in World War 2, and what representations have they received from the Governments of the nations concerned. [HL1531]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Hever): The UK has assisted with landmine clearance in North Africa in the past and continues to provide technical information to the mine-affected countries when requested.

An emergency programme was launched last year in the aftermath of the uprising in Libya to cope with explosive remnants, including newly laid mines, unexploded and abandoned ordnance. The UK is supporting non-governmental organisations engaged in clearance, such as the Libya Mine Action Centre, to undertake capacity-building work in Libya, including the implementation of a national mine action programme.

Northern Ireland Office: Staff Question

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Shutt of Greetland on 13 October 2011 (*WA* 257), what was the date of departure of Hilary Jackson, the former director-general of the Northern Ireland Office; what are the financial details and costs of her redundancy package and its capitalised value; and at what age her pension would normally become payable. [HL2017]

Lord Newby: Hilary Jackson left the Northern Ireland Office on 31 December 2011. Hilary was a Ministry of Justice (MoJ) employee on loan to the NIO. The MoJ will hold the personal data about the cost of her departure as she left under an MoJ scheme. There were no costs to the NIO.

Overseas Aid

Questions

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which European Union member states are not on track to meet, or have ceased to be committed to meeting, the target of increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of gross national income or to commit 50% of all increases in ODA to African countries by 2015.

[HL1852]

Baroness Northover: The UK is firmly on track to reach 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2013. However, while 16 member states maintained or increased their aid in 2011, a number of member states are off-track in meeting the 0.7% target. According to the 2010 Annual Report to the European Council on EU Aid Targets, of the countries that were member states before 2004, France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Italy and Greece did not meet the interim 2010 target of 0.51% ODA/GNI. Of the countries that joined the EU after 2004 only Malta met the interim 2010 target of 0.17% ODA/GNI. All member states reaffirmed their commitment to meet the 0.7% ODA/GNI target at this year's June European Council.

The target of spending 50% of all ODA in Africa by 2015 is a collective EU target. According to the One DATA report, from 2004 to 2011, the countries that were member states before 2004 spent 36.2% of global ODA increases in Africa. Between 2004 and 2010, these countries increased ODA to Africa by \$5.04 billion. The UK will continue to press other member states to meet their aid commitments, including the necessary increases to Africa.

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with European Union Official Development Assistance (ODA) partners on maintaining ODA pledges and managing joint aid programmes in the current economic climate.

[HL1853]

Baroness Northover: The UK remains on track to meet its commitments on ODA. However, a number of countries are off track which seriously undermines progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Ministers discuss this regularly with European Union colleagues and the Second Annual Report to the European Council on EU Aid Targets was recently adopted at the May Development Foreign Affairs Council. The UK also successfully pressed for language on ODA in the June European Council and will continue to use high-level meetings in the EU to hold other member states to account for meeting their aid commitments.

The UK is a strong supporter of country-led aid effectiveness work, most recently re-affirmed at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. The Secretary of State for International Development is co-chair of global partnership post-Busan. A key outcome of the conference was to improve donor co-ordination to reduce duplication and waste. With regard to improving EU co-ordination, the UK

strongly believes that any form of joint programming needs to come out of country led processes. We will continue to support efforts to harmonise development programmes which reduce transaction costs and improve results.

Asked by **The Earl of Listowel**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent on social protection programmes in Nigeria for (1) children and (2) pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and what is their assessment of the impact of those programmes.

[HL1917]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent on social protection programmes in Nigeria to improve nutritional outcomes for (1) children and (2) pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and what is their assessment of the impact of those programmes.

[HL1918]

Baroness Northover: DfID did not fund any social protection programmes in Nigeria between 2008 and 2011. DfID is currently developing a new social protection programme, which is expected to start in early 2013. The programme is expected to include an evaluation component to assess the impact of the programme.

In September 2011, DfID started a nutrition programme in Nigeria aimed at reaching 6.2 million children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers over a six-year period. The programme is being independently evaluated, although it is too early to assess its impact at this stage.

Asked by **The Earl of Listowel**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent on social protection programmes in Ethiopia for (1) children, and (2) pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and what is their assessment of the impact of these programmes.

[HL1919]

Baroness Northover: The Department for International Development (DfID) supports the Ethiopian Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), which provides cash and food transfers to around 7.5 million hungry households during the lean season. While this is not targeted at women or children, they are major beneficiaries of improved household food security. DfID spending on PSNP was £35 million in 2008/9; £30.5 million in 2009/10, £61.6 million in 2010/11; and £61.1 million in 2011/12.

Independent evaluations in 2008 and 2010 found that the programme had improved food security for recipients. Children in recipient households ate more meals per day and the food gap—the number of months during which a household was unable to meet its food needs—has been reduced by a third (more than a month). PSNP transfers have also helped recipient households to retain productive assets in the face of shocks (helping them to avoid, for example, selling

their draft animals at distress prices in the wake of a bad harvest); and, through PSNP public works, to reverse decades of environmental degradation and declining farm yields. Data on the height and weight of children under five years were collected in 2010 and will be collected again in 2012. These data will be analysed by May 2013, allowing us to assess the impact of PSNP on children's nutritional outcomes.

Asked by The Earl of Listowel

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much the Department for International Development spent on social protection programmes in Ethiopia to improve nutritional outcomes for (1) children, and (2) pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and what is their assessment of the impact of those programmes. [HL1920]

Baroness Northover: The Department for International Development (DfID) supports the Ethiopian Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), which provides cash and food transfers to around 7.5 million hungry households during the lean season. DfID spending on PSNP was £35 million in 2008/9; £30.5 million in 2009/10; £61.6 million in 2010/11; and £61.1 million in 2011/12.

Independent evaluations in 2008 and 2010 found that the programme had improved food security for recipients. Children in recipient households ate more meals per day and the food gap—the number of months during which a household was unable to meet its food needs—has been reduced by a third (more than a month). While it is likely that improved food consumption has led to improved nutritional status we cannot know this for certain without additional analysis, as nutrition is affected by a range of factors. Data on the height and weight of children under five years were collected in 2010 and will be collected again in 2012 and will be analysed by May 2013, allowing us to assess the impact of PSNP on children's nutritional outcomes.

Asked by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they have provided in each of the last 10 years, and how much they plan to spend in each year to 2015, for promoting (1) human rights, and (2) democracy, overseas; and which departments disburse this funding. [HL1999]

Baroness Northover: The UK Government support human rights and democracy through the work of two departments. DfID is the main funding provider. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) also provides financial assistance to promote human rights and democracy, as well as playing a key diplomatic role in promoting the UK's values on human rights and democracy. DfID has provided a total of nearly £738 million on support to human rights and democracy in the period from 2000-01 to 2010-11, bilaterally and through multilateral organisations, although we believe this figure to be a low estimation of DfID's full expenditure on democracy and human rights. The FCO currently spends a minimum of £10 million per year on human rights and democracy.

Table 1 below shows the break-down of DfID's bilateral and multilateral spend per year. Table 2 shows DfID's bilateral spend per year on (1) human rights and (2) democracy. It would incur disproportionate costs to identify the break-down of DfID's multilateral spend on human rights and democracy over the past 10 years.

DfID does not have sufficient information available to give a fair projection of DfID expenditure on human rights and democracy until 2015. The FCO's expenditure on human rights and democracy is currently assessed on an annual basis and next year's allocation has not yet been announced.

Table 1: DfID's bilateral and multilateral spend per year on human rights and democracy.

<i>Spend (£000s)</i>	<i>2000/01</i>	<i>2001/02</i>	<i>2002/03</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2004/05</i>	<i>2005/06</i>
DfID Bilateral	14,920	14,960	16,143	21,707	21,521	23,967
DfID Multilateral	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Spend (£000s)</i>	<i>2006/07</i>	<i>2007/08</i>	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
DfID Bilateral	20,196	33,988	42,048	27,622	44,567
DfID Multilateral	99,420	104,571	104,319	74,366	73,502

Table 2. DfID's bilateral spend per year on human rights and democracy (elections).

<i>Spend (£000s)</i>	<i>2000/01</i>	<i>2001/02</i>	<i>2002/03</i>	<i>2003/04</i>	<i>2004/05</i>	<i>2005/06</i>
Human Rights	9,771	10,470	11,802	8,558	7,884	7,249
Democracy (Elections)	5,150	4,490	4,341	13,149	13,637	16,718

<i>Spend (£000s)</i>	<i>2006/07</i>	<i>2007/08</i>	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>
Human Rights	6,405	12,308	11,591	9,084	10,688
Democracy (Elections)	13,791	21,680	30,456	18,539	33,880

This can be found at: www.dfid.gov.uk/About-us/How-we-measure-progress/Aid-Statistics/Statistics-on-International-Development-2011/SID-2011-Additional-tables/ and www.fco.gov.uk/en/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/human-rights-report.

Asked by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government to how many countries the Department for International Development has provided general and sector budget support in the last 10 years; how much funding it has provided to each of those countries in those 10 years; to which countries it plans to provide general and sector budget support until 2015; how much this planned general and sector budget support

will total for each of those countries; and whether the department requires that all bank accounts to which it provides general and sector budget support are publicly audited. [HL2002]

Baroness Northover: The table below presents general and sector budget support (GBS and SBS) expenditure over the past 10 years, disaggregated by country. As shown in the table, over the past 10 years DfID has provided budget support in a total of 20 countries across Africa and Asia.

DfID does not publish forward projections of particular aid types due to the uncertainty surrounding these numbers. In the case of budget support, it is likely that actual disbursements will differ from planned expenditure. For example, DfID may not disburse all approved expenditure if the UK's underlying partnership

principles are breached or if there is underperformance in the indicators linked to performance tranches. Moreover, new budget support programmes may be approved over the coming years.

Nevertheless, details of all of approved budget support programmes can be found on the DfID website (<http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/default.aspx>), where all business cases are published.

When we provide budget support, it is a requirement that all bank accounts into which budget support funds are transferred are audited by the recipient country's public audit institutions. We provide budget support only when we are completely satisfied that funds will be used for their intended purpose. DfID conducts detailed fiduciary risk assessments (FRAs) examining all aspects of recipient country public financial management systems before budget support is provided.

	Expenditure (£ mn)							
	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06	
	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS
Bangladesh	0.0	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.8	0.0	8.0
Bolivia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cameroon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Ethiopia (1)	10.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	30.0	15.0	0.0	42.0
Ghana	20.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	42.5	0.0
India (2)	30.0	0.0	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.5
Malawi	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	24.9	7.9
Moldova	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Mozambique	10.0	5.1	15.0	5.7	30.0	5.9	35.0	6.3
Nepal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	8.7
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Niger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pakistan (3)	20.0	0.0	35.0	15.0	0.0	7.5	20.0	22.5
Rwanda	22.0	0.0	18.8	0.0	34.3	0.0	54.3	0.0
Sierra Leone	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	12.0	0.0	15.0	0.0
Tanzania	45.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	65.0	0.0	85.0	0.0
Uganda	17.5	12.0	30.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	30.0	0.0
Vietnam	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	14.0
Zambia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	20.7	0.0
Total	184.5	23.7	288.8	20.7	286.5	60.5	347.3	125.7

	Expenditure (£ mn)							
	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS
Bangladesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bolivia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cameroon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ethiopia (1)	0.0	69.9	0.0	111.6	0.0	105.2	0.0	93.0
Ghana	35.8	10.0	56.5	10.0	59.5	18.0	48.0	24.2
India (2)	0.0	16.0	0.0	54.0	0.0	54.0	0.0	52.0
Malawi	20.0	13.3	22.0	19.3	22.0	20.4	24.0	17.5
Moldova	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Mozambique	36.0	0.8	41.0	0.0	42.0	14.5	44.0	16.9
Nepal	0.0	5.4	0.0	18.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	5.2
Nicaragua	0.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Niger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.9
Pakistan (3)	20.0	32.5	10.0	38.0	30.0	25.7	30.0	22.5
Rwanda	0.0	2.6	33.0	5.0	33.0	2.2	33.0	5.7
Sierra Leone	12.5	0.0	13.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	12.2	0.0

	Expenditure (£ mn)							
	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS
Tanzania	90.0	0.0	105.0	0.0	103.5	0.0	103.5	0.0
Uganda	40.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	35.0	0.0	32.5	0.0
Vietnam	20.0	14.5	20.0	11.8	20.0	6.0	20.0	9.6
Zambia	23.3	0.0	28.0	0.0	27.7	0.0	36.0	0.0
Total	297.6	166.1	366.5	268.6	392.7	255.9	383.2	251.0

	Expenditure (£ mn)			
	2010/11		2011/12	
	GBS	SBS	GBS	SBS
Bangladesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bolivia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cameroon	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ethiopia (1)	0.0	94.7	0.0	132.8
Ghana	36.0	25.0	25.0	23.0
India (2)	0.0	46.0	0.0	49.0
Malawi	19.0	39.6	0.0	41.0
Moldova	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0
Mozambique	48.2	28.6	48.0	21.4
Nepal	0.0	7.0	0.0	7.0
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Niger	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pakistan (3)	30.0	32.5	0.0	38.0
Rwanda	35.8	10.5	37.0	21.3
Sierra Leone	8.0	0.0	12.5	0.0
Tanzania	103.5	0.0	50.0	30.0
Uganda	27.2	0.0	20.0	5.0
Vietnam	20.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
Zambia	32.8	0.0	12.5	0.0
Total	360.5	286.4	225.0	368.5

(1) Figures (to 2011/12) include the Protection of Basic Services (PBS) programme, which is a multi-sector budget support programme financed through a World Bank multi-donor trust fund started in January 2006 in response to the cancellation of General Budget Support in 2005. This support is only used to provide local level basic services and the programme includes a comprehensive package to strengthen financial management, transparency, monitoring and evaluation, and social accountability.

(2) This provides support for health, nutrition, and water/sanitation programmes in three of India's poorest states—Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

(3) All support to the Government of Pakistan is earmarked to deliver specific results and outcomes within a sector, from the number of children enrolled in school, to the number of lives saved. Projects are subject to independent evaluation and have safeguards to track and monitor our funds.

Asked by *Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government where UK Export Finance's spending that counted as overseas development assistance, as reported in the Department for International Development's annual report, went; and what the spending was on. [HL2046]

Baroness Northover: In its annual report and accounts 2011-12, DfID reported that the Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD) contribution to UK overseas development assistance was £91 million. This sum was debt relief provided to the Democratic Republic of Congo under the terms of the international Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

Asked by *Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what types of funding are attributed to the eight sectors that the Department for International Development's annual report sets out for its bilateral aid spend in 2011-12.

[HL2047]

Baroness Northover: DfID uses a range of funding types for its bilateral aid, and works to achieve results in a large number of sectors. The DfID annual report 2011-12 disaggregates our bilateral spending across 12 sectors (figure 2.1 on page 44).

DfID chooses the funding type for its aid that is most appropriate for the specific set of development results being targeted and the local context in which we are operating. As a result, a range of funding types is used in each sector.

The full range of bilateral and multilateral funding types used by DfID, and the sectors in which DfID works, is published in the statistics for international development (<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-measure-progress/aid-statistics/statistics-on-international-development-2011/key-statistics/>).

Asked by *Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Department for International Development (DfID) in Mozambique spent 1.2% of its budget on reproductive, maternal and newborn health there in the light of the statement in DfID's annual report that maternal mortality is the only Millennium Development Goal indicator severely off track in Mozambique. [HL2048]

Baroness Northover: Between April 2010 and March 2011, the Department for International Development (DfID) in Mozambique spent 23% of its budget on health, of which 1.2% went directly to reproductive, maternal and newborn health. In addition, spending on policy and administrative management, infectious disease control, health personnel development and sexually transmitted infections helped improve maternal and newborn health.

In 2011, Britain's interventions in Mozambique resulted in 35,000 births being delivered with medical assistance; 1,700 pregnant women being treated for malaria; and improved access to modern methods of contraceptives for an additional 56,400 women.

Asked by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, according to the annual report of the Department for International Development (DfID), DfID Sierra Leone spent 44.2 per cent of its budget on Global Partnerships in the light of the statement by DfID Sierra Leone's Operational Plan that there would be no spending on Global Partnerships but that roughly 44.3 per cent would go to governance and security. [HL2049]

Baroness Northover: There is an incorrect label on the pie-chart which illustrates 2011-12 spend by DfID Sierra Leone by sector in the annual report and accounts. While the underlying data is correct, the label "Global Partnerships" should instead have read "Governance & Security".

The Parliamentary Journal Office was informed and approved an official corrections slip which was placed on record, distributed to recipients, and used to update the electronic version on the DfID website.

Asked by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government where the additional funding for the Conflict Pool in 2011-12 was found compared to the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department Operational Plan published in June 2012 and the Department for International Development's annual report; whether other budgets were reduced to achieve this increase; and, if so, which budgets and by how much. [HL2050]

Baroness Northover: The Conflict Pool is funded from a Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is separate from and additional to DfID, FCO and MoD budgets. DfID's budget provides the resources for Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department's Operational Plan published in June 2012. Departmental budgets were not reduced to achieve the increase in the Conflict Pool's budget.

Details of the Conflict Pool's resources for Financial Year 2011-12 were given in a Written Ministerial Statement laid before Parliament on 5 April 2011 (Commons *Hansard* 57-59WS).

Pakistan

Question

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds they have ceased funding the work of the Rural Support Programme Network in Pakistan. [HL1983]

Baroness Northover: There has been no decision to cease funding of the Rural Support Programme Network's (RSPN) activities. The Department for International Development (DfID) originally helped to set up the

RSPN in 2001 and provided core support to help build its institutional capacity. This programme came to an end in December 2010, when it was felt that RSPN was sustainable and well positioned to continue its innovative and successful work in rural poverty reduction. DfID continues to consider all competitive bids submitted by RSPN for programme specific support where it aligns with our priorities. RSPN has received funding to provide support to communities after the 2010 floods and to develop community mobilisation training as part of the UK's education programme in Punjab.

Police: Medals

Question

Asked by Lord Ashcroft

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to awarding a posthumous bravery medal to PC Ian Dibell.

[HL1713]

Lord Newby: It is not government policy to comment on such cases.

Private Sector: Cash Resources

Question

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they estimate that cash resources held by private companies in the United Kingdom are increasing or decreasing.

[HL2023]

Lord Newby: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary Question to ask Her Majesty's Government whether they estimate that cash resources held by private companies in the United Kingdom are increasing or decreasing. [BIS] HL2023.

The Office for National Statistics publishes an annual United Kingdom National Accounts: The Blue Book which presents a full set of economic accounts, or national accounts, for the United Kingdom. Chapters 3 and 4 of the Blue Book comprise the fullest available set of accounts showing transactions by the private non-financial and financial sectors of the economy respectively. The Blue Book 2012 was published on 31 July 2012 and is available on the National Statistics website at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa1-rd/united-kingdom-national-accounts/the-blue-book--2012-edition/index.html>

I have interpreted the term "cash resources" in your question as the most liquid assets held by private companies, which are "currency and deposits".

Blue Book 2012 shows that total currency and deposits held by private non-financial corporations has increased annually since 2009 (shown in table 3.3.9 within the financial balance sheet for private non-financial corporations).

Blue Book 2012 shows that total currency and deposits held by financial corporations has increased annually since 2009 (shown in table 4.1.9 within the financial balance sheet for financial corporations).

The Blue Book also provides information on the net lending/borrowing position of private companies, which is the financial balance between their income and expenditure. If the financial balance of private companies is positive, they are net lenders and if it is negative, net borrowers.

Blue Book 2012 shows, for private non-financial corporations, an annually increasing positive financial balance since 2008 (shown in table 3.3.8 within the financial account for private non-financial corporations).

Blue Book 2012 shows that although since 2008 financial corporations have had a positive financial balance, this has subsequently decreased each year (shown in table 4.1.8 within the financial account for financial corporations).

Railways: Level Crossings

Question

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incidents have been recorded at railway level crossings in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 up until the last year for which records are available. [HL2062]

Lord Newby: The information requested is listed in the table below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Incidents</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1996	0	
1997	0	
1998	3	Road vehicle collision
1999	0	
2000	1	Road vehicle collision
2001	1	Road vehicle collision
2002	0	
2003	2	Road vehicle collision
2004	2	Road vehicle collision
2005	0	
2006	1	Road vehicle collision
2007	0	
2008	0	
2009	2	Road vehicle collision
2010	0	
2011	0	
Total	12	

Republic of Ireland: Financial Support

Question

Asked by *Lord Laird*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sassoon on 28 June (WA 103-4), what tranches of the UK bilateral loan to the Republic of Ireland have been paid and when; when interest on tranches of loan were due

and whether any interest has been paid to date; what is the current 7.5 year starting swap rate plus margin of 2.29%; what is the most recent average yield on gilt issuance; and whether interest in the new loan agreement is based on conventional gilts with an average nominal yield of 2% or index-linked gilts with an average real yield of 0.022%. [HL1741]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): As set out by the Financial Secretary in the statutory report on the bilateral loan to Ireland, which was published on 11 June 2012, the Treasury has disbursed three tranches of the bilateral loan. Tranches were disbursed on 14 October 2011, 30 January 2012 and 28 March 2012. Each disbursement was for £403,370,000, bringing the total amount disbursed to £1,210,110,000.

Accumulated interest on the disbursed tranches of the loan is payable by Ireland on 15 December and 15 June each year, until the maturity date of the associated tranche. Under the existing interest rate, the Treasury received interest payments on 15 December 2011 and 15 June 2012.

The Treasury will provide a further report, as required by the Loans to Ireland Act, as soon as is practicable following the next reporting period, which ends on 30 September 2012.

The 7.5 year sterling swap rate on 28 March 2012, as used for the purposes of calculating the rate of interest applicable to the third tranche of the bilateral loan, was 2.098% per annum.

The average yields on gilts issued by the Debt Management Office in the six months up to 19 July 2012, weighted by cash proceeds, were a nominal yield of 2.004% on conventional gilts and a real yield of 0.026% on index-linked gilts.

As the Financial Secretary's Written Statement of 11 June outlined, agreement has been reached in principle on a new, lower interest rate on the bilateral loan to Ireland. This is subject to the loan agreement being revised to reflect the new interest rate. The Financial Secretary has committed to update Parliament once the revised loan agreement has been finalised and signed.

Roads: Traffic Offences

Question

Asked by *Lord Kennedy of Southwark*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many traffic offences were committed in Lincolnshire in each year from 1996 up until the last year for which records are available, and of which types. [HL2060]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects data on notifiable offences recorded by the police. Data are available only for offences such as causing death by dangerous driving; causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs; dangerous driving; and

unlicensed drivers. Traffic offences relating to parking and speeding et cetera are not included in the police recorded crime data.

Transport incidents are also on the national incident category list for the national standard for incident recording. However, as they form part of the “other incidents” category, they cannot be separately identified from data submitted to the Home Office by police forces.

Information on fixed penalty notices issued by police in relation to motoring offences can be found in the Home Office’s online statistical release *Police Powers and Procedures*, the latest of which relates to 2010/11 and can be accessed via: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/police-research/police-powers-procedures-2010/11>.

Data on court proceedings for motoring offences are published by the Ministry of Justice in statistical tables volume 6 of its online ‘Criminal Justice Statistics’ release, the latest of which can be accessed via: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-statistics>.

Rwanda

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Goudie**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they will take in order to contribute to help prevent officials of Rwanda from providing support to militia groups operating in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL1921]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We have had, and continue to have, extensive high level contact with the Rwandan Government in Kigali and in the UK during which we have raised the UK’s serious concerns about the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. If Rwanda has breached Security Council resolutions by breaking the United Nations’ arms embargo, we will evaluate our position. Like its partners, the UK will continue to monitor the situation closely, on which basis it will consider any further action.

Asked by **Lord Alton of Liverpool**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether for the period 2011–15 the United Kingdom has allocated £344 million in bilateral aid to Rwanda; in the light of the Statement by Lord Howell of Guildford on 19 July (HL Deb, col. 333) that the report by the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo was “credible”, whether this aid will be used as leverage in persuading Rwanda to desist from arming militias operating in the eastern Congo; and why this issue was not raised directly in recent talks between the Prime Minister and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. [HL1955]

Baroness Northover: The United Kingdom has allocated £344 million in bilateral aid to Rwanda between 2011 and 2015. Over the last five years, a million Rwandans—one in five of those who were poor—have been lifted

out of poverty. UK aid has contributed directly to this achievement and continued support can help to ensure that progress is sustained.

The UK Government are concerned by the findings of the United Nations Group of Experts and we have raised these concerns with the Rwandan Government. All partner governments that receive UK aid must adhere to strict partnership principles. A planned general budget support disbursement of £16 million has been delayed while the Secretary of State for International Development considers whether these expectations are still being met.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for International Development and the Foreign Secretary have urged Rwanda to play a constructive role in bringing peace and stability to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The UK will continue to use its development partnership with Rwanda and all diplomatic channels to ensure this happens.

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government, in the light of their decision to suspend long-term development aid to South Sudan, why they continue to provide development aid to Rwanda, in the light of the Statement by Lord Howell of Guildford on 19 July (HL Deb, col. 333) that the United Nations Group of Experts report on the Democratic Republic of Congo is “credible”. [HL1972]

Baroness Northover: The UK Government remain fully committed to supporting the people of South Sudan, and have not made any reduction in our overall aid package for the country. Given the current economic and humanitarian conditions in South Sudan, the UK has refocused development assistance towards sustaining basic services and delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance.

In Rwanda, UK aid has contributed directly to tremendous progress in reducing poverty and delivering much-needed services to poor people. The Government of Rwanda uses public funds and development aid well—both in terms of results achieved and in terms of anti-corruption safeguards and financial accountability. Over the past five years a million Rwandans—one in five of those who were poor—have been lifted out of poverty.

The UK is, however, concerned by the findings of the United Nations Group of Experts and we have raised these concerns with the Rwandan Government. Whether and how much UK aid is disbursed to Rwanda will depend on assurances that Rwanda is abiding by the provisions governing UK aid to partner governments. A general budget support payment to Rwanda, planned for July, has been delayed while the Secretary of State for International Development considers whether these provisions are still being adhered to.

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have information that counters the evidence produced by the United Nations Group of Experts that the Government of Rwanda are providing military aid and assistance to the M23 rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL1973]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We have seen no such information. We urge the Rwandan Government to engage constructively with the United Nations Group of Experts, and to respond transparently to the evidence presented in the addendum to their report.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any evidence provided by Ministers and others in the Government of Rwanda that convinces them that the allegations made by the United Nations Group of Experts that Rwanda is providing military assistance to the M23 rebels are unfounded; and, if so, what is that evidence. [HL1974]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We have not been provided with any such evidence. We continue to urge the Government of Rwanda to engage constructively and transparently with the United Nations Group of Experts.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with counterparts in the Government of the United States over their continuing provision of humanitarian, development, or military aid to Rwanda, in the light of the announcement by the United States Department of State that \$200,000 in military aid is being withdrawn and re-allocated elsewhere. [HL1975]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We are in regular contact with the United States on all aspects of policy on Rwanda and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether in the course of discussions at the United Nations leading to the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2053 they sought to include language calling for an arms embargo on Rwanda and an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to include military operations against the M23 rebels active in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo; and, if so, which Security Council members opposed the inclusion of such language. [HL1976]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The primary task of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is to protect civilians. MONUSCO also provides assistance to government security forces in their efforts to complete military operations in the Kivus and Orientale Province, to reduce to a minimum the threat from all armed groups including M23 (March 23 Movement) and FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) and restore stability. Discussions in the United Nations Security Council are closed proceedings, not for disclosure. However, we urge all parties, including Rwanda, to comply fully with the arms embargo on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Statement by Lord Howell of Guildford on 19 July (HL Deb, col. 333) that the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo was "credible", what specific actions they have taken to use their influence as the third largest contributor of humanitarian aid to Rwanda to persuade the Government of Rwanda to cease their support for the armed rebellion in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL1977]

Lord Howell of Guildford: Since 19 July, we have continued to raise our concerns at the highest level with the Rwandan Government. For example, our High Commissioner in Kigali has raised them with the President, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Foreign Minister.

Asked by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider the conclusions about the involvement of the Government of Rwanda in the ongoing conflict in eastern Congo in the recent UN Panel of Experts report indicate a breach of one of the Department for International Development's four partnership commitments for partner governments receiving budget support from the United Kingdom; and, if so, what action they are planning to take. [HL2000]

Baroness Northover: The UK is concerned by the findings of the United Nations Group of Experts and we have raised these concerns with the Rwandan Government. When serious concerns emerge which may constitute a breach of the partnership principles then these are closely assessed and discussed with all relevant parties. A 16 million general budget support payment to Rwanda which was planned for July has been delayed while the Secretary of State for International Development considers whether the partnership principles are still being adhered to.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have about discussions between the Government of Rwanda and the United Nations Expert Panel concerning allegations of military and political support by Rwanda to the M23 Rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. [HL2051]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We understand that the Government of Rwanda invited the United Nations Group of Experts to visit Kigali on 28 July for discussions about their recent report. We are aware that discussions took place. The group will submit a further report about their visit to the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with counterparts in Rwanda about introducing legal guidance on supply chain due diligence for companies operating in Rwanda's domestic

minerals market, to reduce the risks of Rwanda facilitating the trade in minerals to fund conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo by allowing those minerals to reach international markets.

[HL2053]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The Secretary of State for International Development, my right honourable friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell) and our High Commissioner raised this issue with the Rwandan Minister of Finance most recently in July. Our High Commissioner has also raised this issue with the Minister for the Environment Lands and Natural Resources and the Director General of the Natural Resources authority both bilaterally and in the company of other European Union Member States twice in the last three months. All discussions emphasised the potential for economic development offered by the legitimate trade in minerals produced within Rwanda and which may transit Rwanda from other states in the region, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Social Media

Question

Asked by **Baroness Linklater of Butterstone**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what safeguards and procedures are in place for the appropriate use of social media by staff in the children's secure estate in the public and private sectors. [HL2013]

Lord Newby: The Youth Justice Board commissions three sectors that form the children and young people's secure estate; secure children's homes, secure training centres and under 18 young offender institutions.

For secure children's homes, the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 set out the principal provision that members of staff should be of integrity and good character. The Youth Justice Board's contractual specification further requires that staff will maintain safe, consistent and understandable boundaries for the children in relation to acceptable behaviour. This would extend to the appropriate use of social media. It is the relevant local authority that is responsible for setting staff conduct and ensuring that the use of information technology is appropriate.

In secure training centres, staff are required to undertake appropriate recruitment and vetting in order to be certified as fit and proper to work with young people. The contractor must notify the Youth Justice Board immediately of any behaviour of, or action by, a custody officer which comes to its attention and casts doubt upon his or her fitness for certification as a custody officer. A staff handbook must be given to all staff that summarises employment terms and conditions. Such handbooks refer to appropriate use of information technology, e-mail and internet including social networking sites.

Staff working in under 18 young offender institutions are required to comply with Section 91 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 that describes the wrongful disclosure of information about particular prisoners acquired by

persons who are, or have been, employed at an institute, and the provisions of the Official Secrets Acts 1911, 1989. Under 18 young offender institutions must take all reasonable steps to ensure that all staff and sub-contractors are aware of these provisions and that they continue to apply after leaving employment.

Contracts with private under 18 young offender institutions require staff not to disclose any information acquired during the course of that employment otherwise than in the proper discharge of their duties or as authorised. If, in the opinion of the National Offender Management Service, any allegation requires investigation then it can require the suspension of this person.

A series of Prison Service instruments are also in place to guide and support the policing of behaviour in all young offender institutions to maintain high standards of personal and professional conduct.

South Sudan

Questions

Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the latest estimates of South Sudanese returnees in 2011 and 2012; how many of those have arrived by river and how many over land; and what percentage of those are (1) resettled or (2) in camps. [HL1804]

Baroness Northover: According to figures from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) there have been 115,748 returnees in 2012, of an estimated total of 400,000 since October 2010. Of these, approximately 19,146 are currently stranded at four transit sites in Renk in Upper Nile State, the main entry point into South Sudan. A further 3,500 individuals are waiting at Kosti Railway station in White Nile State in Sudan. The final destinations for the returnees are Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and Wau in Western Bahr el-Ghazal State. In 2012, 23,920 have been moved by road (buses and trucks), 19,000 were moved by air and some 5,500 by barge. Currently options are being explored to move the remainder by train. However, there are a number of logistical and security challenges. We have allocated £10 million to WFP for the pre-positioning of food in South Sudan, some of which will assist the returnees. We have also pre-approved another £5 million in case of a sudden inflow of further returnees. In 2011 the UK also contributed £2.36 million (\$3.8 million) through the Common Humanitarian Fund and Central Emergency Response Fund to assist returnees.

Asked by **The Earl of Sandwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received reports regarding the number of South Sudanese returnees arriving each week by river at Bentiu in Unity State; which aid agencies are assisting them, there or at nearby way stations, with food, drinking water and shelter; and what contribution the UK is making. [HL1805]

Baroness Northover: The recent influx to Yida camp has gone down to approximately 250 people per day from about 1,000 per day. The response is co-ordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. World Food Programme (WFP) is in charge of provision of

food supplies. Agencies operating in the area include numerous international health NGOs, focused on health and nutrition, such as Médecins Sans Frontières and Goal. The two greatest challenges are access due to recent heavy rains and lack of roads and the health of the population. DfID has allocated over £45 million to the humanitarian response in South Sudan through our support to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the WFP. We are also providing support through our contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support is being provided to address the needs of South Sudanese returnees in Km18, Jamam and Batil camps in Upper Nile state; and through which aid agencies. [HL1806]

Baroness Northover: A range of support is being provided across the Km 18, Jamam and Batil camps, including water and sanitation, health, food, and nutrition services. Responding agencies include Oxfam, International Medical Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières, Goal, World Food Programme and United Nations Office for Project Services. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is responsible for the overall refugee response. The UK remains one of the leading donors to the humanitarian response in South Sudan's refugee camps. My honourable friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Stephen O'Brien, visited the Jamam camp in April to assess conditions. DfID has allocated over £45 million to the humanitarian response in South Sudan, which includes support for refugees, through our support to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), ICRC and the World Food Programme. DfID is also providing support through our contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Most recently we have worked with our partners in the CHF to open a \$10 million emergency response window to ensure rapid support is available to address the crisis. DfID is in close contact with UNHCR, their NGO partners and the Government of South Sudan on the situation, and HMA Juba again raised the issue with Vice-President Machar on 13 July.

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they have provided to the Audit Chamber of South Sudan in compiling the annual reports required by its constitutional mandate. [HL1997]

Baroness Northover: The UK has provided support for the Audit Chamber of South Sudan through the World Bank managed Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF) and through the Joint Donor Office in Juba. This assistance has enabled the Audit Chamber to fulfill its functions more effectively, including the production of annual reports. The UK is also initiating a bilateral programme of accountability support to the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission (SSACC).

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the Government of South Sudan about taking action on the findings of the annual reports recently presented by its Audit Chamber. [HL1998]

Baroness Northover: The UK, together with its Troika partners, US and Norway, and the EU, hold a regular high level dialogue with a group of senior Ministers of the Government of South Sudan, with a strong focus on tackling corruption. UK officials regularly raise corruption concerns, such as those highlighted in the recent Audit Chamber reports, in other meetings with government Ministers and officials, including most recently with the Vice President, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, and the President's Economic Adviser.

Sudan

Questions

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likelihood that the Government of Sudan will honour the commitments made on 27 June on access for humanitarian aid to South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states. [HL1671]

Baroness Northover: We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in the two states and the condition of refugees on arrival in South Sudan. We have been lobbying the Government of Sudan to accept the United Nations, Arab League and African Union tripartite proposal for the delivery of humanitarian assistance since it was proposed in November 2011. This approach is also reiterated in the African Union road map and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046. The latter also calls for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to accept the proposal. We welcome the Government of Sudan's statement of 27 June. The important issue is to see full access according to humanitarian principles, meaning full access to competent neutral humanitarian agencies, thereby ensuring that the necessary support reaches all areas of these regions, including rebel-held areas. The UK is working closely with the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure every opportunity for delivering assistance to those who need it is explored. We will continue to urge the Government to accept and implement the agreement in full.

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there have been any improvements in the political environment for humanitarian agencies working in Darfur; and which UK-assisted aid agencies are still able to work there. [HL1807]

Baroness Northover: We remain deeply concerned over the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur. Continued restrictions of access across Darfur have

resulted in the withdrawal of some non-governmental organisations such as Médecins Sans Frontières from North Darfur. We continue to press the Government of Sudan to allow full, unfettered access. The UK provides direct funding to United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Office for Project Services, RedR, and United Nations Development Programme to deliver programmes in Darfur. We also provide funding to Darfur through the Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) which funds international and Sudanese organisations to deliver programmes across Darfur. Last year DfID provided £50 million to the CHF and a significant proportion of this funding was spent in Darfur.

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the prospects for sustainable agricultural development in Darfur. [HL1808]

Baroness Northover: DfID remains committed to sustainable development in Darfur and believes that sustainable agricultural development in Darfur would both have positive lasting impacts for the people of Darfur and support the Sudanese economy. However until the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur is fully implemented and the region is stable it will be difficult to achieve sustainable agricultural development in Darfur. DfID currently funds the United Nations Environment Programme and the Feinstein International Center to provide advisory support to a national non-governmental organisation in Sudan, to set up and manage a community-based market monitoring network in the Darfur Region. The goal of this initiative is to understand trade and markets in Darfur for key agricultural and livestock commodities; identify how livelihoods and the economy can be supported through trade; and identify peace-building opportunities through trade.

Asked by The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports they have received on the progress of the development initiatives outlined in the East Sudan Development Conference in Kuwait in December 2010; and what assessment they have made of the prospects for development in the eastern region. [HL1809]

Baroness Northover: DfID has consistently urged the Government of Sudan to honour the commitments made at the Kuwait conference in 2010 to allow unhindered access for non-governmental organisations and humanitarian and development workers in Eastern Sudan. It is therefore concerning that the Sudanese Government chose to close down seven international non government organisations' programmes in East Sudan. This decision has consequences for the humanitarian and development programmes in the East, and may impact on the prospects for development in the region. Development in eastern Sudan would have a positive impact on development across Sudan and would also help further stabilise the region. A number of bilateral donors, the UK included, are in the process of evaluating whether it is possible to set up new programmes. There are also a number of projects already under way funded by Arab donors in the wake of the Kuwait conference.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations about the arrest of Nahid Gabralla on 3 July by the Sudanese National Intelligence Security Service; whether they consider this to be related to her role in leading a protest against the trial of Lubna Hussein, who is on trial for illegally wearing trousers; what assessment they have made of the alleged use of torture at Omdurman Prison where she is held; and whether, when they participate in meetings to promote trade and business deals in Sudan, they intend to alert participants to the treatment of Nahid Gabralla and other human rights campaigners detained in Sudanese prisons.

[HL1956]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford):

We are very concerned about the case of Nahid Gabralla who was detained in Khartoum on 3 July. The cause of her detention has not been confirmed, but it seems to be part of the Government of Sudan's wider crackdown on protestors and human rights activists in recent weeks. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my honourable friend the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham) specifically expressed his deep concern over Nahid's case during his meeting with Sudanese Foreign Minister, Ali Karti, in the margins of the AU Summit on 14 July. Officials at our embassy in Khartoum have also raised their concerns over the case with Presidential Assistant Abdrahman Sadiq al-Mandi and have been liaising with Amnesty International on advocacy efforts. As Mr Bellingham made clear in his statement of 26 June, we urge the Government of Sudan to release those recently detained while engaged in peaceful protest, and for the security forces to act with restraint and avoid the use of force in responding to peaceful demonstrations. (The full text of Mr Bellingham's statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website: www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=780225182.)

Our embassy in Khartoum has a trade section that consists of one commercial officer who is locally employed. This section does not proactively promote British trade with Sudan but is, however, ready to respond to enquiries and requests for assistance from British companies interested in the Republic of Sudan. When we speak to British companies considering doing business in Sudan, we give a full picture of the political situation in the country. Human rights issues are regularly raised when embassy officials meet with the Government of Sudan.

Sudan and South Sudan

Questions

Asked by Lord Chidgey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking in response to the humanitarian and refugee situation in Sudan and South Sudan.

[HL1854]

Baroness Northover: DfID is greatly concerned at the humanitarian situation in both Sudan and South Sudan, and the effect the ongoing conflict in the border areas is having on the high number of refugees crossing the border into South Sudan. The UK remains one of the leading donors to the humanitarian response in South Sudan's refugee camps. We have now allocated over £45 million to the humanitarian response in South Sudan, which includes support for refugees, through our support to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Food Programme (WFP). We are also providing support through our contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Most recently we have worked with our partners in the CHF to open a \$10 million emergency response window to ensure rapid support is available to address the crisis.

DfID has allocated over £22 million to the humanitarian response in Sudan this year. Much of this is delivered through the CHF, but we also directly fund ICRC, and international non-governmental organisation partners. We have the option to provide more to the WFP in the border areas, and the CHF, as needs are identified.

DfID has been lobbying the Government of Sudan to accept the United Nations, Arab League and African Union tripartite proposal for the unconstrained delivery of humanitarian assistance in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile State since it was proposed in November 2011. This approach is also reiterated in the African Union Roadmap and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046; the latter also calls for the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to accept the proposal.

DfID welcomes the Government of Sudan's statement of 27 June. The important issue is to see full access according to humanitarian principles, meaning full access to competent neutral humanitarian agencies, thereby ensuring that the necessary support reaches all areas of these regions, including rebel-held areas. The UK is working closely with the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to ensure every opportunity for delivering assistance to those who need it is explored. DfID will continue to urge the Government to accept and implement the agreement in full.

Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Howell of Guildford on 23 July (*WA 122-3*), whether (1) the Government of South Sudan, and (2) the Government of Sudan, are preventing "full humanitarian access" to those affected by the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile; if so, in what ways in each case; what steps they are taking to ensure that such access is permitted; and whether those steps include withholding a portion of Department for International Development aid from the Government of Sudan until access is permitted. [HL1951]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The best chance of achieving full humanitarian access to those in need in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states will be through a cessation of hostilities in both areas, and the lifting of all restrictions on humanitarian agencies, so that they are able to operate freely and impartially across those areas. The Governments of Sudan and South Sudan both have roles to play in allowing this to happen. As set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046, we are pressing the Government of South Sudan to halt all support to opposition movements in Sudan, which only fuels conflict in the border areas, and pushing the Government of Sudan to immediately implement the United Nations-African Union-Arab League Proposal for delivering and monitoring aid, so that assistance is given to those who need it without delay. We are working closely with our international partners to apply pressure on both governments, and supporting the African Union High Level Implementation Panel as they facilitate discussions of these issues.

The UK does not channel any development funding or assistance through the Government of Sudan, but rather delivers its programmes and projects through international partners in order to tackle the underlying causes of conflict and assist Sudan's poorest and most needy. To withhold such assistance based on the actions of the Government would be at odds with these objectives, and cause greater suffering for the people of Sudan.

Asked by Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they are making to the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to ensure that any new oil deal reached following ongoing negotiations is transparent and independently verified. [HL1996]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK remains fully committed to supporting the implementation of the African Union Roadmap and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046 between Sudan and South Sudan, which includes the need for an agreement on arrangements concerning oil and associated payments. We have consistently argued for transparency in any deal and have supported proposals for independent international verification. We welcome the recent progress on petroleum legislation in South Sudan, which contains provisions on tendering, contracting and reporting, including of revenue flows, that form a basis for significantly improved transparency and accountability in the sector.

Asked by Baroness Cox

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any contingency plans to assist with the provision of humanitarian aid to displaced peoples in South Kordofan and Blue Nile State, if a political settlement is not reached as a result of the forthcoming talks between the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan. [HL2033]

Baroness Northover: The UK has already funded £5 million for the World Food Programme to preposition and distribute food stocks to 315,000 people in South

Kordofan and Blue Nile states. In addition, we have contributed £1.8 million for humanitarian assistance through national NGOs in these two states. The majority of our humanitarian funding goes through the UN Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) in Sudan and we will support a co-ordinated CHF response if access were to open up. We have also allocated over £45 million to the humanitarian response in South Sudan, which includes support for refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile states. It remains imperative that there should be an immediate cessation of hostilities, unrestricted humanitarian access, and a political process to address the causes of the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2046.

Taxation: Income Tax

Question

Asked by Lord Hollick

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they plan to introduce to give effect to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's commitment in the Budget Statement to deal with the unlimited use by the rich of income tax reliefs to avoid or to reduce their liability to taxation. [HL1859]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The Government announced at Budget 2012 a proposal to introduce a limit on all previously uncapped income tax reliefs from April 2013.

A consultation document on the delivery of the relief cap has now been published and is available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_income_tax_relief_cap.htm

The consultation invites comments on the implementation and delivery of the cap including, in particular, responses to: how an individual's income will be defined and calculated for the purposes of the cap; when the cap will apply; how reliefs will be ordered; and the operation of the cap through income tax self-assessment.

Following the consultation, draft legislation will be published in the autumn.

Trees: Ivy

Question

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the threat to the growth and survival of trees in the United Kingdom by the spread of ivy of the family Araliaceae; whether they will encourage its removal; and whether they are funding any research on the impact of the spread of that ivy and of possible measures to address that spread. [HL1931]

Lord Newby: We do not consider ivy to be a threat to our trees. Though we are aware there is a view that ivy kills trees, there is no strong scientific evidence to

substantiate this. Cases where ivy has been blamed for the death of a tree have been investigated and other problems have been found to account for the tree's decline.

Ivy is very valuable in providing roost sites and sometimes hibernation sites for birds, bats and invertebrates. It also provides valuable late nectar and berry sources and is a specialised dead wood resource in its own right. We have no plans to encourage its removal: this is a decision for individual land owners and managers. We are not currently carrying out any research into the impact and spread of ivy.

UK Border Agency

Question

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds they agreed the recent payment to Brodie Clark, formerly of the UK Border Agency, in a pre-tribunal settlement. [HL1642]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): This information was provided in both the UK Border Agency and the Home Office accounts, which were laid before Parliament on 12 July 2012.

Answers received between Monday 6 August and Monday 13 August 2012

Atos Healthcare

Question

Asked by The Countess of Mar

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Atos Healthcare has set targets or been given targets by the Department for Work and Pensions for the numbers of claimants who pass the work capability assessment; and whether any such targets are applied (1) on a national basis, (2) for each Atos centre, or (3) for individual registered medical practitioners employed by Atos Healthcare. [HL1907]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): Atos Healthcare does not have performance targets or incentives with regard to the number of people qualifying for benefit. Atos Healthcare provides the relevant reports for DWP decision-makers but plays no part in the actual decision-making process.

Benefits

Questions

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what non-contributory benefits are currently paid to people who do not reside in the United Kingdom; what is the annual total paid in relation to each of those benefits to such people; and under what conditions they are eligible or continue to be eligible when outside the United Kingdom. [HL1935]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The annual total paid to people who do not reside in the United Kingdom in relation to each non-contributory benefit is given in the table below. Figures are not available for the costs of paying child benefit and/or the child tax credit in these circumstances.

<i>Non-Contributory Benefit</i>	<i>2010-11</i>
	<i>£m</i>
Attendance Allowance	3
Carers Allowance	0
Disability Living Allowance	11
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit	12
Severe Disablement Allowance	2
Category D Pension	1
Winter Fuel Payments	16

Notes

- 1) Figures are in nominal terms
- 2) Figures have been rounded to nearest £m
- 3) Figures may include a very small amount of expenditure where the claimant's residence is not known.

EU rules require us to pay certain non-contributory benefits to people who are resident in the EEA or Switzerland. Those rules are contained in the Social Security Co-ordination Regulations (EC Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009). They mean that in some circumstances, benefits may be payable to persons residing in other member states, for example, to cross-border workers who are employed or self-employed in the UK and to persons resident in another member state who are in receipt of a UK contributory benefit such as UK state pension or contributions-based ESA.

The relevant entitlement conditions for each benefit are:

Disability living allowance (care component only), attendance allowance or carer's allowance are payable to people who live in another EEA member state or Switzerland. The conditions under which they can receive or continue to receive the benefit in these circumstances are that the UK must be the responsible state for payment under EU law, for example the person is a UK worker or pensioner, and that they must be able to demonstrate a genuine and specific link to the UK's social security system. Members of Her Majesty's forces serving abroad are paid disability living allowance and carer's allowance as they are deemed to meet the residence and presence conditions for these benefits.

The entitlement conditions for winter fuel payments are that a person must be resident within the EEA or Switzerland, have reached the age at which women can claim state pension and have a genuine and sufficient link to the UK's social security system.

Industrial injuries disablement benefit, industrial death benefit, and retirement allowance can continue to be paid without restriction outside the UK provided the person still satisfies the conditions of entitlement. Reduced earnings allowance (and the increases to disablement benefit: CAA and unemployability supplement) can continue in payment under domestic legislation where the absence is only temporary, although these may still be payable if a person travels to an EEA country and comes within the provisions of EU legislation.

Also, a person living abroad can become eligible for industrial injuries disablement benefit if they have been injured as a result of an industrial accident, or contracted one of the prescribed industrial diseases, arising from working as an employed earner while they were in GB.

Severe disablement allowance can continue to be paid to people who live in another EEA member state or Switzerland under the provisions of the EU Co-ordination Regulations.

Category D retirement pension is a non-contributory pension payable to people who are aged 80 and over and not entitled to a category A or B state pension at an equivalent or higher rate. Once entitlement is established category D pensions are payable worldwide on the same terms and conditions as other categories of state pension.

In order to qualify for a category D pension the individual must:

have been resident in GB for a period of at least 10 years in any continuous period of 20 years which includes the day before their 80th birthday or any later date; and

be ordinarily resident in GB on the day they reached age 80 or the date of claim for the pension if later.

Under the terms of the EU social security co-ordination rules a person does not have to be ordinarily resident in GB if they are resident in the EEA and Switzerland.

Child benefit and the child tax credit are payable to persons residing in the EEA or Switzerland, where the UK is the responsible state for payment under EU law. This would include payment to UK workers and pensioners.

Child benefit and the child tax credit are also payable to UK Crown servants posted overseas (eg Armed Forces personnel, members of the Diplomatic Service) or their accompanying spouse or partner, provided that just before the posting the Crown servant was either ordinarily resident in the UK or was present in the UK immediately prior to the posting and in connection with that posting.

Child benefit is covered by some of the UK's bilateral social security agreements, namely Barbados, Canada, Israel, Jersey and Guernsey, Mauritius, New Zealand and the former Yugoslavia. Under some of these bilateral agreements (eg with Barbados and the former Yugoslavia), UK child benefit may be payable if the person responsible for the child (or their spouse) is still paying UK national insurance contributions.

We do not have estimates of the total annual cost of paying child benefit and/or the child tax credit in the circumstances outlined above.

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the cost of paying social security benefits to those aged 16 and 17; which benefits are involved and under what conditions; what child allowance payments can be made on behalf of children of that age; on behalf of how many children are such payments made; and how much is paid on their behalf annually.

[HL1936]

Lord Freud: The cost of paying social security benefits to those aged 16 and 17 is broken down in the following table:

<i>Payments to 16 and 17 yr olds</i>	<i>2010-11</i>
Income Support	£49m
Jobseeker's Allowance	£11m
Housing benefit	£59m
Disability Living Allowance	£191m
Employment and Support Allowance	£18m
Carer's Allowance	£4m
Total	£332m

Young people under 18 can only qualify for welfare benefits in certain circumstances eg young parents, carers, people with disabilities, the long-term sick and young people who are estranged from their parents or carers and in full-time non-advanced education. Further information on this can be found at: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Money/FinancialHelpForYoungPeople/DG_10027506.

We estimate DWP made £73 million of child element payments through income support in respect of 16 and 17 year-olds in 2011-12.

The information regarding children aged 16 and 17 included in child benefit claims is already published and can be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug11.pdf.

The information on child tax credit and further breakdown of child allowance payments is not readily available and has not previously been published as official statistics. We do not consider it feasible to produce the statistics requested within the disproportionate cost limit.

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they propose to cease publication of the Annual Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-up Report.

[HL1937]

Lord Freud: We are considering discontinuing the publication of *Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-up*. This would mean that the last publication in this series was February 2012, covering the period 2009-10. This proposal reflects a number of factors:

there has been an increased demand for new statistics to measure new policies in relation to welfare reform and other departmental priorities; take-up statistics are published as ranges that are relatively wide in relation to the range locations. This feature limits the usefulness of the statistics because of the associated uncertainty and difficulty in identifying trends over time. In particular users are currently warned that pension credit estimates should be treated with caution due to small sample sizes. Uncertainty is set to increase for results published from 2011-12 because the Family Resources Survey sample size has fallen from 25,000 to 20,000;

the relevance of *Income Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-up* as a statistical series for existing benefits is limited because many of these benefits will be

replaced by universal credit. Universal credit is scheduled to be introduced in October 2013 with full migration scheduled to take place over several years. Other benefits are also being reformed in the coming years; and

increasing demands on our limited number of statistical staff means that we need to make difficult decisions on where this resource is best deployed.

The full consultation document is available online at: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/income_analysis/july_2012/take_up_irb_consultation.pdf.

BFI National Archives

Question

Asked by Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the continuation of the funding of the BFI National Archives under the Broadcasting Act 1950 and the Communications Act 2003 to ensure the United Kingdom retains a record of the output of the commercial public service broadcasters for the foreseeable future.

[HL2083]

Lord Newby: The National Television Archive is an important part of our screen heritage. It is important that the British Film Institute (BFI) is in a position to be able to look after the legacy collections, including material broadcast on television. Ofcom has determined an appropriate contribution by the commercial public service broadcasters for 2012-13 and will consider their contribution for 2013-14 in due course. We will also consider the longer-term contribution of funding to the BFI by broadcasters as part of the Government's communications review.

Civil Service: Staff

Questions

Asked by Lord Oakeshott of Seagrove Bay

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of HM Treasury excluding HM Revenue and Customs and other agencies, how many civil servants in (1) the senior civil service, (2) posts equivalent to grade 6 and 7, and (3) the Government Economic Service, (a) joined, and (b) left, the department in each of the past five years for which figures are available, and what percentage each represented as a percentage of the number in post in each category at the end of each year.

[HL2010]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of HM Treasury excluding HM Revenue and Customs and other agencies, what was the average age of civil servants, in (1) the senior civil service, (2) posts equivalent to grade 6 and 7, and (3) the Government Economic Service, in each of the past five years for which figures are available, and what was the average age of (a) joiners, and (b) leavers, in each category in each year.

[HL2011]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The answers to the questions are provided in the following tables:

Period	Senior civil service (SCS) joiners	As a % of number in post at year end	Average age of equivalent SCS joiners	Posts to grades 6 and 7	As a % of number in post equivalent at year end	Average age for posts to grades 6 and 7
2007-08	17	16%	43	78	23%	35
2008-09	14	13%	43	83	22%	36
2009-10	21	16%	43	91	22%	35
2010-11	5	5%	41	46	12%	33
2011-12	4	4%	41	50	14%	37

Period	Senior civil service (SCS) joiners	As a % of number in post at year end	Average age of equivalent SCS leavers	Posts to grades 6 and 7	As a % of number in post equivalent at year end	Average age for posts to grades 6 and 7
2007-08	33	31%	45	128	38%	37
2008-09	27	25%	45	75	19%	37
2009-10	14	11%	43	79	19%	38
2010-11	22	20%	45	83	21%	39
2011-12	18	19%	46	98	27%	37

Period	Average age of SCS	Average age for posts equivalent to grades 6 and 7
2007-08	43	37
2008-09	42	37
2009-10	43	37
2010-11	43	37
2011-12	43	37

The data requested for the Government Economic Service are not recorded separately from other staff grades and therefore this element of the question could be answered only at a disproportionate cost.

Asked by Lord Oakeshott of Seagrove Bay

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in respect of HM Treasury excluding HM Revenue and Customs and other agencies, what was the average total remuneration per head of civil servants in (1) the senior civil service, (2) posts equivalent to grade 6 and 7, and (3) the Government Economic Service, in each of the past five years for which figures are available. [HL2012]

Lord Sassoon: The average total remuneration per head of civil servants in HM Treasury for 2010-11 and 2011-12 is as follows:

	2010-11 (£)	2011-12 (£)
Senior civil service	81,962	80,883
Posts equivalent to grades 6 and 7	51,132	50,565

Figures for prior years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The salaries of those working at the Treasury in the Government Economic Service are not recorded separately from other staff.

Climate Change Question

Asked by The Duke of Montrose

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the certificates of exemption from the climate change levy for those involved in the production of combined heat and power are to be withdrawn from 1 April 2013. [HL2079]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): State aid approval for the levy exemption certificate expires on 1 April 2013. There is recognition among many in the energy industry that the exemption was not a well targeted form of support for combined heat and power (CHP). It was also costly to the taxpayer and administratively complex.

At Budget 2012, the Government announced that companies will have five years to draw down certificates obtained before 1 April 2013. They also announced that input fuels used to generate heat in CHPs will be exempt from the carbon price floor. The Department for Energy and Climate Change is looking at the long-term future of support for CHP electricity as part of wider energy policy options.

Council Tax Questions

Asked by Baroness Sherlock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the total financial outturn on council tax benefit (1) in cash terms, and (2) in real terms, in each of the financial years 1997-98 to 2010-11 inclusive. [HL1959]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The information you requested is in the table below:

	Cash Terms	2012-13 prices
1997-98	2,395	3,329
1998-99	2,452	3,362
1999-00	2,511	3,373
2000-01	2,575	3,445
2001-02	2,686	3,529
2002-03	2,834	3,628
2003-04	3,223	4,042
2004-05	3,557	4,336
2005-06	3,774	4,509
2006-07	3,941	4,557
2007-08	4,027	4,552
2008-09	4,234	4,647
2009-10	4,698	5,064
2010-11	4,925	5,169

These figures are consistent with the latest published expenditure outturn available at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/budget_2012_200712.xls.

Asked by **Baroness Sherlock**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the proportionate increase in total financial outturn on council tax benefit (1) in cash terms, and (2) in real terms, in each of the financial years 1997–98 to 2010–11 inclusive. [HL1961]

Lord Freud: The information you requested is in the table below:

	<i>Cash Terms</i>	<i>2012-13 prices</i>
1997-98	3.5%	0.9%
1998-99	2.4%	1.0%
1999-00	2.4%	0.3%
2000-01	2.5%	2.1%
2001-02	4.3%	2.4%
2002-03	5.5%	2.8%
2003-04	13.7%	11.4%
2004-05	10.4%	7.3%
2005-06	6.1%	4.0%
2006-07	4.4%	1.1%
2007-08	2.2%	-0.1%
2008-09	5.2%	2.1%
2009-10	10.9%	9.0%
2010-11	4.8%	2.1%

These figures are consistent with the latest published expenditure outturn available at: http://research.dwp.gov.uk-asd-asd4-budget_2012_200712.xls.

Education: 16-19 Bursary Question

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what has been the take-up of the 16-19 bursary in England (1) in each local authority, and (2) within each local authority, according to ethnicity. [HL1891]

Lord Newby: The 16-19 bursary fund has been operating since the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year. Data on bursary fund payments during 2011-12 are being collected at local authority and individual institutional level and will be available in early 2013.

Employment: Youth Contract Questions

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what communications they have issued to employers in respect of the Youth Contract, and whether they will place in the Library of the House copies of all such communications. [HL1657]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): There have been three mailings to over 350,000 employers to promote the youth contract and three products created for local marketing to employers by Jobcentre Plus. I will place copies of all products in the Library.

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of new jobs which will be created as a result of the Youth Contract. [HL1774]

Lord Freud: The youth contract, worth almost £1 billion, was introduced in April 2012 and will provide nearly half a million new opportunities to young unemployed people over the next three years. The youth contract builds on existing support available through Jobcentre Plus and the Work Programme, enabling young unemployed people to look for work, gain work experience and skills, and find real, lasting jobs.

Asked by **Lord German**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of eight-week payments that have been issued as part of the wage incentive of the Youth Contract. [HL1775]

Lord Freud: The youth contract, including wage incentives, went live in April 2012. From this point any young person attached to the Work Programme could be placed into work with a wage incentive being offered to the employer. In most cases, wage incentives are paid after a young person has been in work continuously for 26 weeks. We will pay small employers a proportion of the wage incentive after eight weeks and where young people leave posts after 13 weeks but before week 26, we will pay half of the wage incentive.

Wage incentives are paid after 26 weeks because the aim is to incentivise employment into real, sustainable jobs, largely within the private sector. The volumes of wage incentives we pay after 26 weeks of work will show the number of young people who have benefited from this policy by entering real and sustainable jobs. Following the collection and quality assurance of this data, I expect the first set of official statistics on the wage incentive to be available from early 2013. The department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we publish statistics that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity.

Freedom of Information Question

Asked by **Lord Campbell-Savours**

To ask Her Majesty's Government by what date the Freedom of Information team at HM Revenue and Customs intends to reply to the letter of appeal against a refusal to provide information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 from Segesta Ltd dated 16 May. [HL1922]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issued a reply to the letter of appeal from Segesta Ltd on 25 July 2012.

Higher Education: Loans

Question

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Learning, John Hayes, on 12 July (*Official Report*, col. 35-6WS), whether they are planning to run a national advertising campaign to publicise the new system of loans for adult students in further education; and, if so, how much funding they will devote to such a campaign.

[HL1943]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox): We want to ensure that potential learners eligible for loans have the facts they need to make an informed choice. We will use a broad range of routes to communicate with potential learners, including the National Careers Service, colleges and training organisations, employers and trade union representatives. We will also use routes to communicate with specific groups such as prisoners and the unemployed.

We are developing information materials for potential learners which will be available through these routes, drawing on the research published by BIS on 11 May on learner attitudes to loans, and on further research with learners. We are also looking at whether there are additional activities that we can undertake at a national level to ensure that learners have the information they need about loans. The communications budget will reflect the outcome of this work.

House of Lords: Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint

Question

Asked by **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint is authorised to speak on all matters relating to his department. [HL2071]

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint): As Minister of State for Trade and Investment, I am responsible for the development and implementation of cross-government strategy for trade and inward investment. I am Minister of State in both the department of Business, Innovation and Skills and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office providing advice on trade and investment to the Foreign Secretary and the Business Secretary.

I am spokesman for the Government on trade and investment matters in the House of Lords.

Housing: Insurance

Question

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord De Mauley on 18 July (*Official Report*, col. 224), what action they are taking to promote insurance-with-rent schemes for people with low incomes in the private rented sector.

[HL1839]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): Insurance-with-rent schemes have been a part of financial inclusion work targeted at the social rented sector. While there are no current plans to extend these schemes into the private rented sector, we are working with the insurance industry and other stakeholders to explore how best to support innovative community-level approaches to addressing the availability of affordable flood insurance.

Internet: 4G Spectrum

Question

Asked by **Lord Stevenson of Balmacara**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the licence fees for the use of 900MHz and 1800MHz spectrum for each licensee if they were calculated to reflect full market value according to Ofcom's proposed methodology and using the German and Italian 800MHz spectrum auctions outcome as a proxy for the 4G auction. [HL2080]

Lord Newby: The setting of licence fees is a matter for the regulator, Ofcom. The Government directed Ofcom in December 2010, once the 4G auction was completed, to revise the licence fees to reflect the full market value of the frequencies and to have particular regard to the sums bid for licences in the auction in setting the revised level of the fees. We remain convinced that this approach is the best way of setting market-based fees for the spectrum in question. Ofcom has set out in its recent statement on the auction how it is likely to approach setting annual licence fees but it will consult on the exact methodology after the auction.

Internet: Broadband

Question

Asked by **Lord Stevenson of Balmacara**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide a breakdown by licensee of the fees paid to Ofcom in the financial year 2011-12 for the use of spectrum holdings under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998. [HL2081]

Lord Newby: This is a matter for the regulator, Ofcom. However, officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have consulted Ofcom which has advised that it will not provide a breakdown by licensee as a matter of course.

National Insurance

Question

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 4 July (*WA 178-80*), what is the total number of national insurance numbers issued from 2004-05 to date to adult overseas nationals from (1) EU candidate countries, (2) EU countries, and (3) non-EU countries; what was the percentage rise from 2009-10 to 2010-11 for (a) EU candidate countries, (b) EU countries, and (c) non-EU countries, and the overall percentage rise; and what were the reasons for the increase in 2010-11.

[HL2084]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The table below provides NINo registration data for each of the categories requested from April 2004. There is

no information available that would provide definitive reasons for the increase in national insurance registrations in 2010-11.

*NINo Registrations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK (Thousands):
Time Series—Financial Year of Registration Date by World Area of Origin.*

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12 (Not Complete)	% difference between 2009-10 and 2010-11
EU candidate countries	5,370	4,740	5,470	6,330	6,800	5,690	7,200	3,270	26.5
All EU countries	197,550	374,540	420,240	439,900	377,190	274,150	359,710	267,710	31.2
Non EU countries	232,430	283,780	280,130	286,860	302,120	292,900	338,000	194,620	15.4
Total of all countries	435,350	663,060	705,840	733,090	686,110	572,740	704,910	465,600	23.1

Source: 100% extract from National Insurance Recording and Pay As You Earn System Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10 percentages to one decimal place. Some additional disclosure control has been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding method used. Data are cumulative from 1 January 2002 unless otherwise specified (eg time-series, subset). Data for 2011-12 are from April to December 2011.

2. Registration date is derived from the date at which a NINo is maintained on the National Insurance Recording and Pay As You Earn System.

3. Time Series—Financial Year of Registration Date Years are Financial based (1 Apr-31 Mar).

4. World Area of Origin is based on a client's nationality. For consistency of reporting, EU-Accession States includes A8 (Republic of Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Poland and Slovenia), A10 (Malta and Cyprus) and A2 (Bulgaria and Romania) for the entire Back Series including the periods before Accession and after transitional arrangements have ended. European Union includes the Accession States for this analysis.

5. European Union is made up of the following: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Republic of Estonia, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Bulgaria.

6. EU Candidate Countries are: Iceland, the Former Yugoslavia-Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

7. The source data for this analysis are available on the department's website at: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>.

Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012

Question

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, after the end of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, any Minister will have designated oversight of the Olympic legacy. [HL1950]

Lord Newby: After the Games, various Ministers will, as now, be accountable for legacy programmes for which their departments are responsible. For

Government, the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, along with the Minister for Sport and the Olympics, will retain oversight of the delivery of the legacy as a whole.

Pensions

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Drake**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much revenue they estimate would be raised by reducing the lifetime allowance for pensions tax relief to (1) £1.25 million, (2) £1 million, (3) £750,000 or (4) £500,000, in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, or (d) 2016-17. [HL1878]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): Large changes to the lifetime allowance would result in substantial behavioural effects that could be estimated only at disproportionate cost. As a result, no estimates are available.

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether current account surpluses were recorded in the accounts of (1) the NHS Superannuation Scheme, and (2) the Teacher Superannuation Scheme, in the past three years; whether any such surpluses were returned to HM Treasury; and whether other public sector pension schemes have returned surpluses to HM Treasury in the last three years. [HL1933]

Lord Sassoon: The annual accounts for the National Health Service (NHS) Superannuation Scheme can be found at the following website: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Pensions/Valuation.aspx>. The accounts show that income exceeded expenditure for 2010-11, but did not for the previous two years.

The annual accounts for the Teacher Superannuation Scheme can be found at the following website: <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/Schools>

SO/Page8/HC%20988. These accounts also show that income exceeded expenditure for 2010-11, but did not for the previous two years.

Both the NHS Superannuation Scheme and the Teacher Superannuation Scheme are unfunded pension schemes. This means that pension contributions are paid by employers and employees but these are not used to build up a fund in order to provide the means to meet the liability when it falls due, but rather used to pay current pensions. As these schemes are unfunded, this means that these “surpluses” for 2010-11 are notional and are shown in the accounts to reduce the liability. For details of other public sector pension schemes, please go to the relevant accounts which can be found on the relevant websites.

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Garden of Frogton on 26 June (WA 57–8), what were the percentage increases in expenditure by Ofcom per annum since its establishment, with and without pension repair payments; whether Ofcom is or was subject to cuts in funding since that date; whether permission was sought by Ofcom for making pension repair payments; and what is the value of the defined contribution pension allowance that is available to all staff.

[HL1934]

Lord Newby: The Office of Communications (Ofcom), as the independent communications regulator, operates within an overall funding cap set by HM Treasury. In the most recent spending review (SR2010), Ofcom agreed to deliver a savings profile, which will achieve a 28.2% reduction in real terms of the funding cap over the four year period to 2014-15. In the period to 2011-12, Ofcom has delivered actual operating cost outturn savings of 26.9% in real terms, relative to the actual outturn for 2004-05. This saving in actual operating cost outturn over the period has been made, notwithstanding Ofcom's obligation to meet inherited liabilities, in respect of defined benefit pensions and taking on a number of additional duties and responsibilities. These include, but are not limited to, postal services regulation, obligations under the Digital Economies Act and spectrum management activities in respect of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics Games.

Ofcom sets its budgets within the constraints of the overall funding cap. Where it is required to make deficit repair payments to its two inherited defined benefit pension plans, formal internal governance processes through the Ofcom board and executive committee are followed, and in respect of the budgeting and making of such payments. The value of the defined contribution pension allowance varies between 8% and 15% of salary, dependent upon staff grade, with two members of the Ofcom executive committee receiving an allowance of 20% of salary.

The following table shows the percentage increase or decrease in Ofcom's expenditure per annum, with and without pension deficit repair payments:

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>% increase/decrease in total outturn</i>	<i>% increase/decrease in outturn excluding pension deficit repair payments</i>
2003-04		*
2004-05	-3.20%	-3.30%**
2005-06	6.10%	2.50%
2006-07	0.30%	3.60%
2007-08	0.40%	-1.50%
2008-09	-1.80%	-3.10%
2009-10	1.30%	-6.40%
2010-11	-3.10%	5.20%
2011-12	-13.20%	-18.20%

[* 3 month period only from 29 Dec 2003 to 31 Mar 2004]

[** % increase/decrease calculated using annualised 03-04 outturn]

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will follow other European countries in establishing a floor level for the discount interest rate to be applied in calculating insurance and pension liabilities, taking into account the impact of quantitative easing. [HL2027]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): It is important to note that it is not always possible to make direct comparisons with pension scheme funding regimes in other countries. The UK system allows flexibility where it most matters—on the actual payments that go into the scheme.

It is important to maintain the integrity of the UK pension funding regime and that employers are able to respond to the pressures created by the economic crisis by smoothing the actual payments required of them.

Similarly it is not always possible to make direct comparisons with insurance supervisory regimes in other countries. Based on guidance from the FSA, it is for insurers to value their liabilities in a way which is appropriate to the business model and risks relating to the individual undertaking. We continue to work with the FSA to ensure that the regulatory objectives set out in FSMA are fulfilled.

Private Sector: Investment *Question*

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to review their current policies designed to encourage private sector investment. [HL2024]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Baroness Wilcox): The Government's deficit strategy has helped to deliver near-record low interest rates and our Plan for Growth outlines a comprehensive approach designed to stimulate private sector-led growth. Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy is one of four ambitions through which the Government will achieve their economic policy objective of strong and

sustainable growth that is more evenly balanced across the country and between industries. We continue to outline progress in implementing over 250 commitments of the Plan for Growth, most recently in March 2012.

A number of fiscal steps have been taken to encourage private sector business investment to support the Plan for Growth ambition of “creating the most competitive tax regime in the G20”.

The main rate of corporation tax (CT) has reduced by 4% from 28% in 2010 to 24% in April 2012. The main rate will fall to 22% in April 2014. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility estimated the 1% CT reduction would increase business investment by around 1%, equivalent to £3.4 billion by 2016.

From April 2012, the Government have offered 100% enhanced capital allowances (ECAs) on plant and machinery investment made in 12 designated areas in enterprise zones. These will help to attract inward investment and stimulate growth in areas by attracting large companies to make large capital investments. ECAs will particularly encourage investment in the manufacturing sector.

The Plan for Growth’s second ambition, to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business, has been supported in a series of recent announcements.

The Government launched the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme in April 2012 to support seed investment in response to particular difficulties start-up companies can face in obtaining seed finance. To kick-start the scheme, the Government are offering a capital gains tax holiday: gains realised on the disposal of assets in 2012-13 that are invested through SEIS in the same year will be exempt from CGT.

A range of measures are ensuring firms with viable business plans are able to access the finance they need to grow: working with the banks, providing guarantees (Enterprise Finance Guarantee), and with equity providers to fill the equity gap (Business Finance Partnership). We are also making available targeted support such as £420 million Get Britain Building Fund for SME house builders (plus £150 million in Budget 2012), £500 million Growing Places Fund and an additional £270 million via LEPs, and UK Green Investments (first £775 million of £3 billion due this year).

The third ambition in the Plan for Growth was to “encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy”. How the Government’s can better fulfil this ambition also continues to be reviewed.

The Government’s latest commitment to private sector investment was the July 2012 announcement of a new UK guarantees scheme to accelerate major infrastructure investment and provide major support to UK exporters. This support is only possible because of the Government’s hard-won fiscal credibility, which the Government are now passing on to support the UK economy. £40 billion of projects could benefit from the scheme, including critical infrastructure projects that have stalled because of adverse credit conditions.

In February of this year the Regional Growth Fund, which supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment creating economic growth and sustainable employment, was allocated an additional

£1 billion. This takes the fund total to £2.4 billion. The ratio of private sector investment to public funding in round 1 was 5:1 and increased to 6:1 in round 2. Budget 2012 also saw the announcement of a new £100 million University Research Co-Investment Fund to accelerate private sector investment in UK university research infrastructure.

Schools: Performance

Question

Asked by **Lord Greaves**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government which are the 36 primary schools in Lancashire that the Schools Commissioner for England, Dr Elizabeth Sidwell, said in a speech at Hambleton, Lancashire on 12 July were “poorly performing” and should become academies; whether the schools concerned have been informed of their inclusion in this list; and what are the criteria that were used for this judgment.

[HL1883]

Lord Newby: It is not our policy to name schools where we are in the early stages of exploring sponsored academy options. We believe this has the potential to disrupt the schools concerned. The schools identified as underperforming are those which are in an Ofsted category of “notice to improve” or “special measures” and/or are below the floor standard and have been so for the majority of the past five years. A school is below the floor standard if fewer than 60% of pupils achieve level 4 at key stage 2 in English and maths combined, with rates of progression in English and maths below the national medians. Officials work closely with local authorities to discuss options for an academy solution for these schools which will transform performance.

Taxation: Alcohol

Question

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group’s Inquiry into beer tax fraud. [HL2061]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The Government welcome the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group report on beer fraud, published on 16 July 2012. The group’s recommendations will be considered alongside the other responses to the Government’s consultation on legislative options to tackle alcohol fraud, which closed on 16 July.

The Government intend to publish a summary of the findings of that consultation later this year.

Taxation: Cash-in-hand Payments

Question

Asked by **Lord Myners**

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have issued any guidance on how people can determine whether cash-in-hand payments are linked to tax evasion.

[HL2026]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has issued detailed guidance on cash-in-hand payments on its website which can be found at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/sectors/consumers/cash-payments.htm>. HMRC also publishes guidance on circumstances where receiving cash-in-hand payments as an employee may be unlawful or linked to evasion, which can be found at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/working/intro/casual.htm>.

Taxation: VAT

Question

Asked by **Baroness Hooper**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much they expect to raise from the imposition of VAT on charities in relation to the maintenance of listed buildings. [HL2055]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): There has been no change to the VAT treatment of maintaining listed buildings. The Finance Bill removed the anomaly whereby approved alterations to certain listed buildings are zero-rated for VAT purposes but alterations to other types of building and the repair and maintenance of all buildings are standard-rated.

On 28 June 2012 HM Revenue and Customs published, on its website, a summary of responses to its consultation "VAT: Addressing VAT borderline anomalies". Annex B in the document contains a revised assessment of the impacts of the proposed changes to alterations to listed buildings.

The published Exchequer impact (£m) for the listed buildings measure in the responses document is as follows:

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
35	85	95	110	125

The responses document also explained that, in addition, changes to the policy made as a result of consultation are expected to decrease receipts, from the above, by approximately £5 million in 2012-13 and 2013-14. This is to take account of the revised transitional arrangements. The final costing for the policy change will be subject to scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility and will be set out in the Autumn Statement 2012.

These estimates apply to all listed buildings affected by the change and separate estimates are not available for the impact on charities.

Annex B of the responses document also clarifies that the scope of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme will be extended to cover alterations as well as repairs and that funding for the scheme will be increased by £30 million per annum.

Telecommunications: Television Signals

Question

Asked by **Lord Dubs**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what incentives are being provided, alongside consumer-focused measures, to mobile network operators to take steps to prevent or reduce interference with television signals at the network level. [HL1778]

Lord Newby: Ofcom has proposed a set of key performance indicators relating to the delivery of the assistance to TV viewers to be included in the licences of the mobile network operators (MNOs). If any of the MNOs fail to meet the key performance indicators for dealing with interference to TV, the immediate sanction is that they must significantly reduce the power levels operating from the relevant base stations, and not add any others, until they have remedied the issues for TV viewers. In addition, those MNOs are incentivised to limit the amount of interference their services cause by being able to share any of the £180 million which they are required to commit to this assistance that is left over after Mitco has completed its work.

On 24 July, Ofcom published its statement on the auction of 4G spectrum licences. This is available from its website at: http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/award-800mhz-2.6ghz/statement/?utm_source=updates&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4g-auction-statement.

The interference mitigation requirements, including a full explanation of all the key performance indicators that will be applied to the MNOs, are included in Annex 2 to the information memorandum.

Answers received between Monday 13 August and Monday 20 August 2012

Africa: Franco-British Co-operation

Question

Asked by **Lord Chidgey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in fulfilling the commitment to "pursue close co-operation on the ground in Africa" made at the Saint-Malo Franco-British summit in 1998. [HL1855]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): Since the Saint-Malo Franco-British summit, the Government have continued to develop their relationship with France on Africa. This includes regular dialogue with our French counterparts in London and Paris and at posts in the region. Also, Ministers have undertaken a number of joint visits to Africa including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, the Great Lakes, Niger, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Africa was discussed at several meetings that the Prime Minister, my right honourable friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron), held with President Hollande last month. In their meeting on 10 July they both agreed to increase efforts in the Sahel, following already greater co-operation in the region since the beginning of the crisis in Mali in late March.

Since 1998 the Government have also co-operated with France on a number of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) military operations and civilian missions in Africa including in the DRC, Guinea

Bissau, Chad/Central African Republic, and covering Somalia. The UK is also playing a supporting role in the planning and development of a French-led CSDP mission to Niger, which we hope to see deployed within the coming weeks.

The Government enjoy close co-operation with France in Africa and continue to value this relationship in light of our shared interests in the region.

Burma

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Government of Burma about ending conflict in Kachin State, and ensuring humanitarian access to internally displaced people. [HL2036]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): On 15 July, our ambassador met senior figures in the Burmese Government, including the Vice-President, to raise the importance of bringing the conflict in Kachin State to an end. The meetings were organised as part of a visit by UK experts focusing on intercommunal trust building and peace processes.

We continue to press regularly for unrestricted humanitarian access to internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Burma, particularly in Kachin State and Rakhine (Arakan) State.

Asked by **Baroness Cox**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Government of Burma about protecting the human rights of the Rohingya community in Arakan State. [HL2037]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK continues to be active in raising the issues affecting the Rohingya community in Rakhine (Arakan) State and has repeatedly called on all parties to end the violence in western Burma and on the Burmese authorities to allow unhindered humanitarian access to the area, to resolve the issue of nationality and to protect the human rights of all the people of Burma, notably the Rohingya.

Our ambassador to Burma raised these points directly with the Burmese Vice-President during a meeting with him on 14 July. On 17 July we raised the Rohingya issue with our EU partners in Brussels. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) also raised the issues affecting the Rohingya with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister during their meeting on 28 July. We continue raise the Rohingya with international partners and in international organisations such as the United Nations.

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the Government of Burma regarding the treatment of the Rohingya Muslim community. [HL2065]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK continues to be active in raising the issues affecting the Rohingya community and has repeatedly called on all parties to end the violence in western Burma and on the Burmese authorities to allow unhindered humanitarian access to the area, to resolve the issue of nationality and to protect the human rights of all the people of Burma, notably the Rohingya.

Our ambassador to Burma raised these points directly with the Burmese Vice-President during a meeting with him on 14 July. On 17 July we raised the Rohingya issue with our EU partners in Brussels. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) also raised the issues affecting the Rohingya with the Bangladeshi Prime Minister during their meeting on 28 July. We continue raise the Rohingya with international partners and in international organisations such as the United Nations.

Asked by **Lord Ahmed**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will raise the issue of torture, abuse of human rights and burning of Rohingya children at the next United Nations Security Council. [HL2066]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We are deeply concerned about reports of human rights abuses being committed in Rakhine (Arakan) State.

We remain in regular contact with non-governmental organisations on the ground in Rakhine (Arakan) State. Tensions between different communities remain and this presents risks to local volunteers. This is not only hampering the provision of humanitarian assistance but is also making verification of reports of human right abuses problematic.

We continue to raise the situation in Burma, including the ongoing ethnic conflict in Rakhine (Arakan) State, in all relevant parts of the United Nations. At the UK's request, the United Nations (UN) Security Council has had three separate briefings in the last eight months from the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Burma, Mr Vijay Nambiar. The most recent briefing on 20 June, where the intercommunal violence in Rakhine (Arakan) State and the continued discrimination against the Rohingya people was discussed, followed a visit to Burma by Nambiar on 11 to 14 June.

The UK strongly supported a UN Human Rights Council resolution on Burma in March, which called on the Government of Burma to recognise the rights of members of the Rohingya to nationality and for the Government to protect all of their human rights. During the Human Rights Council's July session, the UK issued a statement that expressed our alarm at the outbreaks of violence in Rakhine State and the continued discrimination of the Rohingya community.

Cabinet Office: Correspondence

Question

Asked by **Lord Prescott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what correspondence took place between the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office arising out of the letter from Lord

Prescott to the Cabinet Secretary of 31 October 2011; what changes were made to the draft of the Cabinet Secretary's response on 18 and 21 November; and whether they will place a copy of this correspondence in the Library of the House.

[HL1614]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: A factual error in the Cabinet Office reply of 18 November 2011, incorrectly suggesting that departmental civil servants had been disciplined for the use of the Government Procurement Card under the previous Administration, was removed from the version of 21 November. In fact, the fraud stemmed from seven transactions on a cloned credit card. A second paragraph was also deleted from the version of 18 November in error. The Cabinet Secretary has written to the noble Lord to explain the background.

More broadly, online transparency has enabled robust public accountability and parliamentary scrutiny about departmental spending to help protect taxpayers' money.

China Question

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what inquiries and representations they have made about Bishop James Su Zhimin of Baoding, and Bishop Cosma Shi Enxiang of Yixian, who disappeared 15 and 11 years ago respectively, and with what result.

[HL1913]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): Freedom of religion, including government restrictions on religious organisations and the treatment of individuals associated with these groups, was raised with the Chinese delegation at the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2012.

We last raised the cases of Su Zhimin and Shi Enxiang at the 14th round of UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in 2006. Due to the large number of cases of concern we are not always able to regularly raise particular individual cases but we continue to look for opportunities to do so.

At previous dialogues the Chinese side responded that the judicial authorities had taken no coercive action against them and are unaware of their whereabouts. We asked for assistance in locating the bishops and raised our concerns about their health given their advanced age. We are unaware of their current whereabouts or status.

Civil Service: Redundancy Question

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 14 June (WA 265), how many staff working for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agencies were made redundant, or departed early,

in 2011; what were the costs under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in (1) redundancy payments, (2) annual pension amounts payable immediately, and (3) any lump sum retiring allowances; and what was the average redundancy payment. [HL1932]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The following table shows (1) the total number of employees who left the Department for Culture, Media and Sport under voluntary exit terms, (2) the costs under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme and (3) the average redundancy payment in the 2011 calendar year:

<i>Date of Leaving</i>	<i>Number of employees who left under early exit terms</i>	<i>Total cost under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme</i>	<i>Average payment</i>
31/03/11 to 31/12/11	67	£3,252,435	£48,453.80

Payment of annual pension amounts and lump sum are made under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme by our administrator, My Civil Service Pension. We do not hold records centrally and to obtain these would involve disproportionate cost.

The department does not hold this information. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Royal Parks Agency to write directly to the noble Lord with this information.

Copies of the responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Government Departments: Buildings Questions

Asked by **The Earl of Clancarty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Department for Culture, Media and Sport intends to move its main premises from Cockspur Street; and, if so, to what location and when. [HL1963]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will move from Cockspur Street to 100 Parliament Street in March 2013.

Asked by **The Earl of Clancarty**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what future use they envisage for the premises at Cockspur Street currently occupied by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [HL1965]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will no longer have a use for the premises at Cockspur Street after its move to 100 Parliament Street in March 2013 and is looking either to assign the lease or to sub-let floors. Five of the eight floors in the building are already let.

Government Departments: Reorganisation

Question

Asked by *The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend a long-term reorganisation of the current Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [HL1966]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: A long-term reorganisation is already under way. The department is currently midway through a three-year change programme to achieve 50% administrative cost reductions to meet spending review targets while building a highly motivated, diverse and talented workforce and prioritising critical deliverables, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Government Departments: Staff

Question

Asked by *The Earl of Clancarty*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their future plans for staffing levels at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [HL1964]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has committed to a 50% reduction in its administration budget by 31 March 2015, which includes staffing costs. Subject to these reductions, we anticipate that the department will have around 340 full-time equivalent staff from April 2013.

Israel

Question

Asked by *Lord Hylton*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the recent statement by the Attorney General of Israel that Israeli law applies to the whole of the Temple Mount. [HL1914]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): East Jerusalem, including the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, is occupied territory and, therefore, as the occupying power Israel must administer this territory in accordance with occupation law, specifically the 1907 Hague Regulations and Fourth Geneva Convention.

As we have long made clear, it is vital that the parties come to an agreement whereby Jerusalem can be a shared capital both of Israel and of a Palestinian state. Any agreement should protect Jerusalem's holy sites and ensure that all people can freely access religious sites sacred to them.

National Policing Improvement Agency

Question

Asked by *Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the transitional costs of transferring

the functions of the National Policing Improvement Agency to other bodies, including the Home Office and the new National Crime Agency. [HL2085]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The transitional costs of transferring the functions of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) to other bodies, including the Home Office and the National Crime Agency, will be met from within existing NPIA budgets.

Nigeria

Question

Asked by *Baroness Cox*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make representations to the Government of Nigeria regarding the concerns of the Christian communities in Tafawa Belewa, Bauchi State, over the absence of action to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against them. [HL2035]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are deeply concerned by the recent violence in northern Nigeria, which has caused suffering in both Christian and Muslim communities. The UK condemns all such instances of violence. We have raised with the Nigerian Government the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice and will continue to do so. We welcome statements made by the Nigeria Government about co-operation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) following the ICC's decision to conduct a preliminary examination into Nigeria. The Government are committed to working with the Nigerian Government to tackle the threat from violent groups and to find a lasting resolution to conflict in northern Nigeria.

Police: Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers

Question

Asked by *Baroness Smith of Basildon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what have been the changes in the numbers of (1) police officers, and (2) police community support officers, in each police authority over the past three years. [HL1860]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The latest available information shows the number of police officers and police community support officers for the three years up to 31 March 2012, by police force area (full-time equivalents) in England and Wales. Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are a matter for the respective Administrations.

Number of police officers and police community support officers for the three years up to 31 March 2012, by police force area

Police force	Police Officers			Police Community Support Officers		
	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12
Avon and Somerset	3,302	3,210	3,039	430	416	365
Bedfordshire	1,246	1,214	1,157	116	125	112
Cambridgeshire	1,471	1,398	1,377	209	200	193
Cheshire	2,155	2,079	2,011	237	221	218
Cleveland	1,724	1,655	1,529	193	178	167
Cumbria	1,238	1,180	1,125	111	104	102
Derbyshire	2,074	2,021	1,819	181	177	171
Devon and Cornwall	3,556	3,436	3,225	363	353	357
Dorset	1,486	1,452	1,378	164	164	153
Essex	3,606	3,577	3,408	445	404	380
Gloucestershire	1,309	1,262	1,208	148	139	132
Greater Manchester	8,148	7,791	7,498	842	837	818
Hampshire	3,748	3,658	3,434	347	344	340
Hertfordshire	2,130	2,048	1,984	262	252	257
Humberside	2,058	1,952	1,856	317	309	290
Kent	3,787	3,668	3,498	387	364	333
Lancashire	3,649	3,448	3,323	428	386	411
Leicestershire	2,317	2,211	2,142	233	232	236
Lincolnshire	1,206	1,202	1,142	149	144	152
London, City of	852	878	831	52	44	38
Merseyside	4,516	4,297	4,083	468	440	426
Metropolitan Police	33,367	32,441	32,140	4,645	4,009	2,760
Norfolk	1,662	1,598	1,547	275	264	254
Northamptonshire	1,343	1,306	1,234	164	166	161
Northumbria	4,187	4,102	3,921	438	433	424
North Yorkshire	1,486	1,458	1,402	198	182	186
Nottinghamshire	2,409	2,319	2,168	268	273	264
South Yorkshire	2,953	2,888	2,772	328	311	290
Staffordshire	2,161	2,079	1,948	237	228	209
Suffolk	1,246	1,244	1,175	173	162	164
Surrey	1,890	1,885	1,974	224	229	228
Sussex	3,213	3,102	2,959	377	351	335
Thames Valley	4,434	4,375	4,355	500	506	508
Warwickshire	973	919	844	138	136	109
West Mercia	2,391	2,251	2,191	279	273	271
West Midlands	8,626	8,149	7,826	811	758	711
West Yorkshire	5,758	5,536	5,219	763	713	728
Wiltshire	1,181	1,099	1,057	126	133	152
Dyfed-Powys	1,195	1,157	1,131	83	80	97
Gwent	1,437	1,501	1,446	143	142	191
North Wales	1,590	1,530	1,454	157	159	219
South Wales	3,148	3,100	2,907	335	304	308
Total 43 forces	143,734	139,110	134,101	16,918	15,820	14,393

1. This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Registration of Deaths

Questions

Asked by *Lord Turnberg*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to ensure the rapid registration of deaths among the population of the United Kingdom. [HL1644]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to proposals by the Royal Statistical Society

and the UK Statistics Authority that registration of the fact of death should be decoupled from the cause of death. [HL1645]

The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):

Civil registration is a devolved function in the UK, so is a matter for each of the Administrations. The General Register Office within the Identity and Passport Service oversees civil registration in England and Wales.

In England and Wales, a death is normally registered within a few days of the occurrence. When a death is the subject of an inquest, the registration takes place after the verdict has been reached and the cause of death has been established. The coroner may issue an interim certificate, which can be used for purposes

such as settling the estate of the deceased. However, such a certificate would not include a cause of death (which will be determined at the inquest), and so could not be used for death registration purposes.

There is no evidence to indicate that there is a significant public health risk or that the existing registration processes cause inconvenience to the public. Accordingly, there are no plans to change the current approach, including that of separating out the processes of registration and cause of death.

Answers received between Monday 20 August and Tuesday 28 August 2012

Broadband: 4G Mobile *Question*

Asked by Lord Dubs

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to assess the impact of interference from 4G mobile broadband on digital television services in a limited geographical area, and (2) to apply any lessons from such an assessment to the roll-out of 4G services nationally. [HL1779]

Baroness Verma: Previous experiences of the 3G network rollout in the UK, and 4G rollouts in other countries, show that network operators are unlikely to roll out complete networks before switching them on. They will undertake a phased rollout. It is the role of Mitco, an organisation that has been set up to reduce the interference to mobile networks, to monitor the situation for any evidence of interference to TV reception as it develops, and act if required to do so.

Children: Northern Ireland and England *Question*

Asked by The Earl of Listowel

To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have commissioned into the comparative outcomes for children in Northern Ireland and England.

[HL1915]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The department has not commissioned any research comparing the outcomes for children in Northern Ireland and England.

EU: Media *Question*

Asked by Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made an assessment of whether any other member states of the European Union have systems of statutory press controls and of the effectiveness of those controls. [HL1985]

Baroness Verma: The Government have noted Module 4 of the Leveson inquiry on future press regulation, which has included analysis of systems of press regulation in other parts of Europe and elsewhere. The Government will respond to the Leveson inquiry in due course, once they receive recommendations for future press regulation due in Lord Justice Leveson's report this autumn.

Higher Education: 16-19 Year-olds *Question*

Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many 16 year-olds they expect to start the 2012-13 academic year studying in (1) maintained school sixth forms, (2) academy sixth forms, (3) 16-19 free schools, (4) sixth form colleges, and (5) further education colleges. [HL1941]

Lord Hill of Oareford: A projection of the percentage of 16 year-olds participating in the 2012-13 academic year was published in the *16-19 Funding Statement* by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) in December 2011. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) will be updating this projection as part of the work for the next *16-19 Funding Statement*.

The table below provides a more detailed breakdown of the age 16 participation rate projection for 2012-13 academic year by route. State-funded school sixth form numbers by school type have not been provided because robust estimates by individual academic age were not available when these projections were produced.

Projected participation in education and work-based learning at academic age 16 by institution type, snapshot at end 2012 calendar year

	2012-13	
	Number	%
Overall participation at academic age 16 in education and work-based learning, of which:	602,979	98.0
State-funded school sixth forms	225,617	36.7
Sixth form colleges	74,398	12.1
General FE, tertiary and specialist colleges	237,443	38.6
Work-based learning	24,072	3.9
Other (incl. independent schools)	41,450	6.7
Population	615,487	

Asked by Baroness Sharp of Guildford

To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) new academy sixth forms, and (2) 16-19 free schools, will open in the 2012-13 academic year; how much funding each will receive; and how many students each expects to enrol. [HL1942]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The tables below list the new academy and free school sixth forms being established in September 2012 for which funding allocations have been finalised.

Table 1: Funding for new academy sixth forms opening September 2012

School	Local Authority	Funding for Places and 16-19 Bursary Fund	Estimated Student Numbers in First Year	Planned Capacity
UCL Academy	Camden	£655,642	125	250
The Bridge Academy	Hackney	£694,595	125	250
Brampton Manor Academy	Newham	£552,791	100	300
Bethnal Green Technology College	Tower Hamlets	£374,084	67	200
The Quest Academy	Croydon	£164,787	35	215
Oasis Academy	Enfield	£529,069	110	250
Drapers' Academy	Havering	£307,444	67	200
Twickenham Academy	Richmond upon Thames	£340,620	75	150
Tudor Grange Academy	Solihull	£462,733	110	250
Ormiston Enterprise Academy	Derbyshire	£62,011	15	100
Consett Academy	Durham	£127,037	30	200
Skinner's Kent Academy	Kent	£82,978	20	250
Bede Academy	Northumberland	£527,400	125	250

Table 2: Funding for new Free School sixth forms opening September 2012

School	Local Authority	Funding for Places and 16-19 Bursary Fund	Estimated Student Numbers in First Year	Planned Capacity
London Academy of Excellence	Newham	£1,276,934	220	420

In addition, there are two academy sixth forms opening in September 2012 for which funding allocations are still being finalised. They are therefore not included in the table above. They are Ash Green School and Torquay Academy. A final list can be provided in due course if desired.

Provision for 16 to 19 year-olds in academies and free schools is funded on the same per-learner basis as that for maintained school sixth forms, sixth-form colleges and general further education colleges using the national funding formula for 16-19 provision. We are introducing a new fairer, simpler and more transparent funding formula for 2013-14 to support the raising of the participation age. The 16-19 Bursary Fund is provided to enable institutions to help young people meet the costs of participating in education and training.

Holocaust Question

Asked by **Lord Storey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Hill of Oareford on 13 June (WA 257-8), how many academies no longer include the history of the Holocaust in their curricula; whether all history programmes will include the history of the holocaust as part of a new national curriculum; and whether academies will be obliged to teach about the holocaust regardless of whether they depart from a new national curriculum.

[HL1832]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The department does not collect information about whether academies include the history of the Holocaust in their curricula. While publicly funded independent schools (academies) will continue to have the freedom to depart from the new national curriculum, where they consider that to be in the best interests of their students, they are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum. As is the case now, we envisage that many such schools will, in practice, continue to offer the national curriculum, and they will be accountable to parents and their local communities for any decisions they take.

Ofsted Question

Asked by **Baroness Sharp of Guildford**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) complaints, and (2) appeals, against gradings Ofsted have received from (a) further education colleges, and (b) sixth form colleges, in the past two academic years; and how many have been upheld.

[HL1788]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): This question is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has written to my noble friend, and a copy of his response has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Sir Michael Wilshaw, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, to Baroness Sharp of Guildford, dated June 2012.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER HL1788: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) complaints, and (2) appeals, against gradings Ofsted have received from (a) further education colleges, and (b) sixth form colleges, in the past two academic years; and how many have been upheld.

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The information you have requested is in the tables below, which are divided between stage one and stage two complaints. A stage one complaint investigation includes challenges to judgements (gradings) as well as concerns about inspector conduct, administration, or information. The stage two complaint investigation is Ofsted's equivalent of an appeal against the investigation completed at stage one.

There was one complaint in 2012-13 that went to appeal and did not have a judgement element. It was about inspector conduct, administration or information and was not upheld.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Lord Hill of Oareford, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

<i>Stage 1 Complaints</i>	<i>Academic year 2010-11</i>		<i>Academic year 2011-12</i>	
	<i>Sixth Form College</i>	<i>FE College</i>	<i>Sixth Form College</i>	<i>FE College</i>
Total number of complaints received	0	7	2	9*
Number of complaints about inspection judgements	0	7	2	5
Number of complaints about inspection judgements upheld	-	0	0	3/5 not upheld 2/5 not yet concluded
Number of complaints about inspector conduct, administration, or information	0	0	0	4
Number of inspector conduct, administration, or information aspects upheld	-	-	-	0

<i>Appeals (Stage 2 Complaints)</i>	<i>Academic year 2010-11</i>		<i>Academic year 2011-12</i>	
	<i>Sixth Form College</i>	<i>FE College</i>	<i>Sixth Form College</i>	<i>FE College</i>
Total number of complaints received	0	1	0	1
Number of complaints about inspection judgements	0	1	0	0
Number of complaints about inspection judgements upheld	-	0	-	0
Number of complaints about inspector conduct, administration, or information	0	0	0	1
Number of inspector conduct, administration, or information aspects upheld	-	-	-	0

*A total of nine stage 1 complaints from FE colleges were received in the academic year 2011-12. Of these, five complaints involved challenges to judgements (gradings). Three of these complaints have been investigated with no complaint aspect upheld. Two investigations have not yet concluded. The remaining four complaints concerned issues about inspector conduct, administration or information aspects of the inspection. No aspect of these four complaints was upheld.

Schools: Academies *Question*

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the terms of reference of the Schools Commissioner for England in relation to the promotion of academies, and for her other work; and what proportion of her work consists of promoting academies. [HL1884]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The terms of reference for the schools commissioner defines Dr Sidwell's role as to champion the growth of academies and raise the

profile of free schools among school leaders, local authorities, parent groups and community organisations. Advocating academies, and the freedoms that becoming an academy brings, is an integral part of all of the schools commissioner's work, and accordingly it is not possible to specify the proportion of Dr Sidwell's work that involves promoting academies.

Schools: Creationism *Questions*

Asked by Lord Krebs

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they allow free schools to be established by groups that subscribe to the teaching of creationism. [HL1724]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Free schools are not permitted to teach creationism as a valid scientific theory in any subject and the Government would not approve any school that intended to do so. The model

funding agreement for free schools requires that free schools shall not make provision in the context of any subject for the teaching, as an evidence-based view or theory, of any view or theory that is contrary to established scientific and/or historical evidence and explanations.

Asked by Lord Harris of Haringey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on the teaching of creationism in school science lessons; and whether that policy applies to free schools. [HL1870]

Lord Hill of Oareford: The Government have made it clear that creationism has no place in the science curriculum of any state-funded school. The model funding agreement prohibits free schools from teaching creationism as a valid scientific theory in any subject.

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider it acceptable for free schools to teach creationism as an evidence-based theory in religious education. [HL2030]

Lord Hill of Oareford: The Government do not consider it acceptable for free schools to teach creationism as an evidence-based theory in religious education or any other subject.

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider it acceptable to refer to creationism as an evidence-based theory in school assemblies. [HL2032]

Lord Hill of Oareford: The teaching of creationism as a valid scientific theory, whether in an assembly or as part of the teaching of science or any other subject, has no place in any state-funded school. Free schools are specifically prohibited from teaching it through their funding agreements. Schools may, however, cover the biblical creation story; for example, as part of religious education.

Schools: Free Meals

Question

Asked by Lord Kennedy of Southwark

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of pupils in the schools in each London borough and the City of London were in receipt of free school meals for each year from 1997 to the last year for which figures are available. [HL1604]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Information on the number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals in each local authority in London from 2002 to 2012 has been placed in the House Libraries. Information is not available on the same basis prior to 2002. The latest information on free school meal eligibility was published on 21 June 2012 in the *Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics:*

January 2012 Statistical First Release at <http://www.education.gov.uk/rsqgateway/DB/SFR/s001071/index.shtml>.

Schools: Free Schools

Question

Asked by Baroness Whitaker

To ask Her Majesty's Government which scientists they consult when deciding which free school proposals to approve. [HL2031]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): All free school applications are subject to a rigorous assessment and a thorough interview process that draws on the advice of a range of education experts and advisers.

Schools: Funding

Question

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the change in the allocation of capital funding for publicly funded schools between 2010-11 and 2011-12 across local authorities in (1) England, (2) the North West, and (3) Merseyside. [HL1833]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): Capital allocations made to local authorities and schools in England, the north-west, and Merseyside, in 2010-11 and 2011-12, together with the change between these two years, are set out in the following table:

Capital allocations for schools

	2010-11 £m	2011-12 £m	Change from 2010-11 to 2011-12 £m
England	6,145	4,860	-1,285
North West	983	644	-339
Merseyside	241	82	-159

The allocations shown cover all capital allocations to schools and local authorities and include supported borrowing allocations in 2010-11. The figures exclude investment through the private finance initiative.

Teachers: Overseas-trained

Question

Asked by Lord Storey

To ask Her Majesty's Government in which countries the overseas-trained teachers currently working in England and Wales first qualified; and in which types of schools they are working. [HL1835]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The department does not hold employment information for overseas-trained teachers currently working in England and Wales, or details of the countries in which they first qualified.

Answers received between Tuesday 28 August
and Monday 3 September 2012

Electoral Registration

Question

Asked by **Lord Wills**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in making projections about levels of registration under the system of individual electoral registration proposed in the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill, what assumptions they have made about the level of local authority spending on electoral registration in (1) 2012, (2) 2013, (3) 2014, and (4) 2015. [HL2040]

Asked by **Lord Wills**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on levels of electoral registration if local authorities do not spend the funds allocated to them for electoral registration to that end in (1) 2012, (2) 2013, (3) 2014, and (4) 2015. [HL2041]

Lord Newby: Funding to meet the cost of the transition to IER was allocated in the 2010 comprehensive spending review with £108 million allocated over the spending review period. The Government are committed to funding the full cost of the transition to IER, over and above the current cost of electoral registration. Local authorities will continue to fund electoral registration from their formula grant and the Government will ensure that there is sufficient funding for transition by making specific payments under Section 31 of the Local Government Act. This funding will be supplied for specific transition activities (such as digital changes, training and transitional canvass arrangements) through upfront or retrospective grants, depending on which activity is being funded. The Government propose that these funds will also be supplied to local authorities on the basis of local needs in terms of population turnover or other factors.

Local authorities are under a statutory duty (Section 54 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) to pay an electoral registration officer's expenses properly incurred in the performance of their functions. Electoral registration officers will be under specific legal obligations to carry out responsibilities agreed by Parliament during the transition. Those who fail to do so will be in breach of their duties, which (in the absence of reasonable cause) is an offence under Section 63 of the 1983 Act. Local authorities presently allocate funding from their area-based grant for registration activities to comply with their present statutory duties and we expect that they will continue to do so.

Asked by **Lord Wills**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of their proposals in the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill on levels of electoral registration (1) among young people aged between 18 and 25, (2) among students, (3) among people with learning disabilities, (4) among

people with disabilities more generally, (5) among people living in areas of high social deprivation, (6) among ethnic minorities, (7) in England, (8) in Scotland, (9) in Wales, (10) in metropolitan areas, (11) in urban areas, (12) in suburban areas, (13) in rural areas, (14) in coastal regions, (15) in parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Conservative MPs, (16) in parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Labour MPs, and (17) in parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Liberal Democrat MPs. [HL2042]

Lord Newby: The Government have carried out a detailed programme of research to inform their decision making on the implementation of individual electoral registration. They have funded the Electoral Commission to publish an updated study on the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register to understand the scale of the challenge; they have funded an independent academic to carry out a literature review of all available research into electoral registration; and they have commissioned a qualitative study which explored the barriers to registration for those groups missing from the register under the current system, and those most at risk during the transition to IER. All of this information has been made publicly available to inform parliamentary scrutiny and debates (which is available on the Cabinet Office website).

Government Departments: Ministerial Code

Question

Asked by **Lord Wills**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to ensure that Ministers with responsibilities in the Cabinet Office comply with clauses 1.2(b) and 1.2(d) of the *Ministerial Code*. [HL2039]

Lord Newby: As the *Ministerial Code* makes clear, it is for individual Ministers to account to Parliament for the policies, decisions and actions of their departments.

Private Sector: Cash Resources

Question

Asked by **Lord Empey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they estimate that cash resources held by private companies in the United Kingdom are increasing or decreasing. [HL2023]

Lord Newby: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director General for Office for National Statistics, to Lord Newby, dated August 2012.

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary Question to ask Her Majesty's Government

whether they estimate that cash resources held by private companies in the United Kingdom are increasing or decreasing. [BIS] HL2023.

The Office for National Statistics publishes an annual United Kingdom National Accounts: The Blue Book which presents a full set of economic accounts, or National Accounts, for the United Kingdom. Chapters 3 and 4 of the Blue Book comprise the fullest available set of accounts showing transactions by the private non-financial and financial sectors of the economy respectively. The Blue Book 2012 was published on 31 July 2012 and is available on the National Statistics web site at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/naa1-rd/united-kingdom-national-accounts/the-blue-book--2012-edition/index.html>

I have interpreted the term “cash resources” in your Question as the most liquid assets held by private companies, which are “currency and deposits”.

Blue Book 2012 shows that total currency and deposits held by private non-financial corporations has increased annually since 2009 (shown in table 3.3.9 within the financial balance sheet for private non-financial corporations).

Blue Book 2012 shows that total currency and deposits held by financial corporations has increased annually since 2009 (shown in table 4.1.9 within the financial balance sheet for financial corporations).

The Blue Book also provides information on the net lending/borrowing position of private companies, which is the financial balance between their income and expenditure. If the financial balance of private companies is positive, they are net lenders and if it is negative, net borrowers.

Blue Book 2012 shows, for private non-financial corporations, an annually increasing positive financial balance since 2008 (shown in table 3.3.8 within the financial account for private non-financial corporations).

Blue Book 2012 shows that although since 2008 financial corporations have had a positive financial balance, this has subsequently decreased each year (shown in table 4.1.8 within the financial account for financial corporations).

Answers received between Monday 3 September and Monday 10 September 2012

Civil Service: Training

Question

Asked by Baroness Tyler of Enfield

To ask Her Majesty’s Government how many training courses for civil servants were scheduled to be delivered by Civil Service Learning for April-June 2012; and how many were actually delivered.

[HL2056]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: April to June 2012 was Civil Service Learning’s first quarter of delivery of training provision. Civil Service Learning gives civil servants access to both e-learning and face-to-face training as well as thousands of learning resources.

Over the April to June 2012 period 45,609 learning activities were delivered across the Civil Service including 65 face-to-face events. We anticipate a higher number of face-to-face courses in future quarters as we have now introduced a forward planning system.

Cybercrime

Questions

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they are aware of any recent cyberattack on UK banks or other banks with branches in the United Kingdom. [HL1987]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on specific details of cybersecurity incidents.

Asked by Lord Empey

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what provision they are making in conjunction with the private sector to protect the UK financial system from cyberattack. [HL1988]

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what discussions they have had with UK-based banks in which the taxpayer has a shareholding about protecting those institutions from private-, terrorist- or foreign government-sponsored cyberattacks. [HL1989]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government take the threat of cyberattacks very seriously which is why we have committed £650 million over the next four years to respond effectively to threats from cyberspace through the National Cyber Security Programme, and the Cyber Security Strategy published in November 2011 has a wide-ranging set of measures in place to protect businesses and individuals from cyberattacks and sets out our plans for how we will improve the UK’s cybersecurity and build confidence by creating a more secure and resilient cyberspace.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure provides advice on electronic and cyberprotective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK’s critical national infrastructure, including financial centres.

We have also established a joint public/private sector cybersecurity “hub” which includes organisations from defence, telecoms, finance, pharmaceuticals and energy. This allows the Government and the private sector to exchange information on cyberthreats and manage the response to cyberattacks.

Economy: Balance of Payments

Question

Asked by Lord Pearson of Rannoch

To ask Her Majesty’s Government by what methodology the Pink Book figures are compiled by the Office for National Statistics; and whether this differs from the methodology used by HM Treasury for producing figures for the balance of payments. [HL2022]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director General for Office for National Statistics, to Lord Pearson, dated July 2012

As Director-General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question To ask Her Majesty's Government by what methodology the Pink Book figures are compiled by the Office for National Statistics; and whether this differs from the methodology used by HM Treasury for producing figures for the balance of payments. [HL2022]

The UK Balance of Payments (Pink Book) is produced annually by the Office for National Statistics, using data from a wide range of sources, including HM Treasury. The data published in Pink Book are consistent with the concepts and definitions in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments Manual Version 5 (BPM5), which is the internationally agreed framework for the compilation and presentation of Balance of Payments data.

Some of the data provided by HM Treasury are directly incorporated into Pink Book; some of the data are subject to further processing. Additional data from other sources, including the HM Treasury Combined Online Information System (COINS), and adjustments, are used so that the published data, including their presentation, are consistent with the international standards specified in the IMF BPM5. Pink Book contains a detailed 'Methodological Notes' section, which outlines the methodology used for the compilation of the data:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bop/united-kingdom-balance-of-payments/2011/bod-pink-book-2011.pdf>

HM Treasury do not directly produce or publish Balance of Payments data, and therefore, there is no requirement for HM Treasury data to comply with the IMF BPM5. In summary, the data which are published by ONS and HM Treasury, are produced and published for different purposes, and hence in accordance with different specifications, and this explains the methodological differences between them. For example, BPM5 states that data must be on an accruals rather than a cash basis, and this is one of the methodological differences between the data published by the two sources. Another difference is that Balance of Payments data are based on calendar years, whereas HM Treasury data tend to be based on financial accounting years.

Government Departments: Private Contractors

Question

Asked by Lord King of West Bromwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent difficulties with G4S's contract to provide security for the Olympics, what assessment they have made of the guidance provided to government departments on entering into contracts with private sector organisations. [HL1751]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: Back in June the Government announced that we were stepping up the formal performance management of large, strategic suppliers. This will include formal reporting on performance and the identification of any high-risk suppliers so that past performance issues are properly taken into account before any new contracts are given.

Pensions

Questions

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sassoon on 2 July (WA 128), which non-public sector organisations, companies, or charities have been permitted to enrol their staff as members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme; under what criteria; and how many individuals are involved for each permitted organisation.

[HL2016]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: None.

Asked by Lord Laird

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Freud on 2 July (WA 118), whether the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme maintained figures on the number of members made redundant annually or leaving under exit schemes and the cost of pension enhancements; and, if so, what were the numbers for each of the last five years in total and by department. [HL2018]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Cabinet Office does not hold the figures requested. The matter of early departures is delegated to individual departments, as are decisions on redundancies and other early exits.

Answers received between Monday 10 September and Monday 17 September 2012

Bahrain

Question

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the 4 September decision of a Bahraini appeals court to uphold the conviction of opposition figures for allegedly plotting to overthrow the state. [HL2202]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We were very disappointed by the Bahrain civilian court's decision to uphold all the sentences of 13 political activists in Bahrain on 4 September. Reports at the time these individuals were sentenced, acknowledged by the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, suggested that some had been abused in detention, denied access to legal counsel and were coerced into confessing.

We urge the Bahraini Government to ensure the human rights and freedoms of their citizens are fully upheld at all times. We are aware that the defendants can now appeal to the Cassation Court. We expect this process to be conducted thoroughly and with urgency, while ensuring due legal process is followed. We will continue to monitor the appeal process very closely.

Health: Cigarettes *Question*

Asked by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of possible links between the use of electronic cigarettes and nicotine addiction.

[HL2149]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): There are a number of products on the market which claim to contain nicotine, such as electronic cigarettes, which are widely available but are not licensed medicines. Currently, any nicotine-containing product (NCP) which claims or implies that it can treat nicotine addiction is considered to be a medicinal product. This approach has allowed NCPs which do not make such claims to be used and sold without the safeguards built into the regulation of medicinal products.

Electronic cigarettes are caught by the provisions of the General Product Safety Directive and associated regulations. Some electronic cigarettes have been tested by local authority trading standards departments and have been found to pose a potential danger to consumers. The available data suggest that there can be great variability in the content of electronic cigarettes, both in the amount of nicotine present and also in relation to other potentially toxic substances.

Electronic cigarettes are not currently regulated as medicines, which are required to meet appropriate standards of safety, quality and efficacy. In March 2011, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published the outcome of a public consultation on whether to bring all nicotine-containing products within the medicines licensing regime. The response to consultation suggested there was strong support for MHRA regulation. The response to consultation also highlighted the need for further information to inform a decision and the MHRA is co-ordinating further scientific and market research with a view to a final decision on the application of medicines regulation in spring 2013.

House of Lords: Leader's Group on Working Practices *Question*

Asked by Lord Butler of Brockwell

To ask the Leader of the House whether he will publish a list of the actions taken by him in response to each of the recommendations of the Leader's Group on Working Practices.

[HL2210]

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Strathclyde): I refer the noble Lord to my Answer to the noble Lord, Lord Grocott, on 25 July (HL Hansard, col. WA 164).

Liikanen High-level Expert Group *Question*

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made a submission to the Liikanen High-level Expert Group on structural aspects of the European Union banking sector; and, if so, whether they will place a copy of the response in the Library of the House.

[HL2228]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The Government have not made a submission to the Liikanen High-level Expert Group but look forward to reviewing its conclusions once the group's final report is published. The recent financial crisis demonstrated that structural reform of banks is a necessary step towards increasing their resilience and resolvability. To this end, the Government are pushing forward with their own structural reforms based on the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking.

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint: Questions *Question*

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask the Leader of the House why Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint answers only questions relating to UK Trade & Investment and not questions on other matters for which the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible.

[HL2208]

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Lord Strathclyde): My remarks on 23 July (HL Deb, cols. 481-84) were in response to a Question specifically asking about questions that relate to Lord Green's ministerial responsibilities. As the Ministerial Code makes clear, it is for the Prime Minister to decide on the allocation of Ministers' functions and responsibilities.

Nuclear Fuel Banks *Question*

Asked by Lord Browne of Ladyton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on the creation of international nuclear fuel banks; and what steps they have taken to support efforts to establish such banks.

[HL2196]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Baroness Verma): The UK, through its membership of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has strongly supported all recent steps to provide assurances of supply (of nuclear fuel) that help build confidence for

those states considering nuclear power. These measures include the so-called "IAEA LEU bank", approved in principle by the board in December 2010, with the financial backing of several partners including the EU, and the UK's own proposal for a Nuclear Fuel Assurance.

Office of Fair Trading: Market Study into Dentistry

Question

Asked by Lord Lea of Crondall

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will respond to the report by the Office of Fair Trading Dentistry: an OFT market study, published in May 2012. [HL2150]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The *Government Response to the Office of Fair Trading Market Study into Dentistry* was published on the department's website on 24 August 2012. This was within the 90-day limit in which the Government have to respond to Office of Fair Trading market studies.

This document has been placed in the Library and is available on the department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/08/market-study-into-dentistry.

Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2012: Security

Question

Asked by Lord Maginnis of Drumglass

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many phases of negotiations between G4S and the Home Office were necessary in order to determine the final number of security staff needed for the 2012 Olympic Games; on how many occasions the (1) numbers of such staff, and (2) contract price, were adjusted and by what percentage on each occasion; and what were the exact dates on which (a) the necessity for each increase was notified by G4S, and (b) each was agreed by the Home Office. [HL1637]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The contract to provide security staff for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is between the London Organising Committee, LOCOG, and G4S. The Government have not changed the basic requirement since the Olympic Security Strategy was first published in 2009: all LOCOG competition venues have always been intended to be island sites with 100% search and screening of pedestrians and vehicles.

LOCOG awarded the contract to G4S on 24 December 2010 to provide 2,000 guards. In August 2011, LOCOG began to discuss with G4S an increase in numbers under the contract. The exact number required had been refined as security planning necessarily had to follow preparations of the detailed Games competition schedule and finalising all venue plans. The deed of variation to the contract, signed by LOCOG and G4S on 15 December 2011, changed the specification so

that G4S was now responsible for supplying up to 10,400 guards. The Home Office is providing £553 million to LOCOG for venue security.

Population Growth

Question

Asked by Lord Patten

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of when the population of London will reach 8.6 million people, its former peak, and what assessment they have made of the implications of such a size for the rest of the United Kingdom. [HL2008]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director General for the Office for National Statistics, to Lord Patten, dated September 2012

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your question to Her Majesty's Government asking what estimate they have made of when the population of London will reach 8.6 million people, its former peak, and what assessment they have made of the implications of such a size for the rest of the United Kingdom. [HL2008]

Estimates of future population are available as population projections. The most recent sub-national population projections are based on mid-year population estimates for 2010 and they project the population of London to reach 8.6 million by mid-2016.

Sub-national population projections are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact of future government policies, changing economic circumstances or the capacity of an area to accommodate a change in population. They provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population if recent demographic trends continued.

The Office for National Statistics is an independent non-ministerial department and does not comment on any assessments of the implications of projected population size.

Rwanda: UN Sanctions Group of Experts Report

Question

Asked by Lord Avebury

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their decision to restore some budget support to Rwanda that they suspended following the publication of a United Nations report accusing Rwanda of sponsoring rebels in the Democratic Republic of the Congo means they are now satisfied that Rwanda has played no part in the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. [FCO] [HL2155]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We believe the UN Sanctions Group of Experts report to be credible. The decision for the UK to disburse half of its delayed General Budget Support (GBS) to Rwanda, while reprogramming the balance through targeted Department for International Development (DFID) programmes, was not taken lightly. It reflects the UK's responsibility to protect the poor and was taken on a basis of the constructive role Rwanda has played in recent International Conference on Great Lake Region (ICGLR) peace talks chaired by President Museveni of Uganda. The Government of Rwanda have also continued to demonstrate their strong commitment to reducing poverty and improving their financial management. Concerns remain over Rwandan involvement with the M23 rebels. The next disbursement of GBS is scheduled for December, and the final Group of Experts report will help inform our disbursement decision.

Answers received between Monday 17 September and Monday 24 September 2012

Admiralty Arch

Question

Asked by Lord West of Spithead

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering selling Admiralty Arch; and, if so, whether they have had any discussions with potential purchasers, and if so whom; and whether a decision has been made, and, if not, when a decision is expected. [HL1820]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Cabinet Office is seeking an alternative use of Admiralty Arch due to the difficulty of providing modern, cost-effective and flexible office space within the constraints of a grade 1 listed building that is not currently suitable for office use. To that end a process to grant a long lease is currently under way. The principal objectives are to protect and reinstate the building's heritage and to enable greater public access than has been the case for the decades it has been in use as a government office, as well as achieving best value for money and addressing security considerations. The Government intend to retain the freehold of the building in perpetuity for the nation.

Armed Forces: Defence Medical Services

Question

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many military secondary care consultants are without permanent NHS employment. [HL2184]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Haver): Regular Armed Forces Defence Medical Services (DMS) personnel who undertake placements within the NHS remain

employed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the duration of their placement. Although embedded into host trusts, Regular Armed Forces personnel do not enter into a permanent employment contract with the NHS.

The Defence Medical Group oversees placements for DMS personnel within NHS trusts under a business agreement, in accordance with the health service guidance covering arrangements between the MoD and the NHS.

The latest DMS biannual manning report shows that, as at 1 April 2012, out of 223 DMS secondary healthcare consultants, 196 were placed within the NHS. The remaining 27 consultants were employed in various other military posts, including operational deployments.

Armed Forces: Interpreters

Question

Asked by Lord Lee of Trafford

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many former interpreters with United Kingdom forces in Iraq have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom; how many former interpreters with United Kingdom forces in Afghanistan have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom; and in both cases, how many applicants are awaiting decisions. [HL2183]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The data requested are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports.

The Home Office publishes immigration statistics annually and quarterly, which are available from the Home Office Research and Statistics website. This includes information on asylum applications by nationality. The latest statistics can be found in the Library of the House as well as on the following website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/.

Armed Forces: Mail to Afghanistan

Question

Asked by Lord Rosser

To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it is currently taking for military personnel on patrol and serving on front-line positions in Afghanistan to receive parcels and letters sent from the United Kingdom. [HL2227]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence (Lord Astor of Haver): The air bridge from the UK to Afghanistan regularly handles up to seven and a half tonnes of mail a day which is usually delivered to theatre within four to seven days. The mail is then delivered to deployed personnel through local distribution arrangements normally within two days. However, higher priority has to be placed on supplying

essential military equipment and supplies. In addition, mail for troops deployed in forward operating bases is often held safe until they return from their deployments. In these circumstances it can take up to three weeks for personnel to receive their mail.

Audit Commission: Staff

Question

Asked by Lord Christopher

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many staff were employed by the Audit Commission, including auditors, on 31 March 2010, 31 March 2011, and 31 March 2012; and what was the cost of any changes in the staff complement. [HL2174]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham):

This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Controller of Audit at the Audit Commission to write to the noble Lord direct. I would add that the programme to end routine inspection and assessment, disband the Audit Commission and introduce a new local audit framework will save £650 million of taxpayers' money over the next five years.

Letter from Marcine Waterman, Controller of Audit for Audit Commission to Lord Christopher, dated 18 September 2012

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply. The Commission employed:

1,985 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff including auditors on 31 March 2010;

1,409 FTE staff including auditors on 31 March 2011; and

1,017 FTE staff including auditors on 31 March 2012.

968 FTE staff left the organisation between 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2012, some of whom received exit packages.

The cost of changes in the staff complement (defined as the cost of exit packages paid or provided for) was:

£26.0 million for 668 staff in 2010/11. £0.2 million paid to these staff appeared in the 2011/12 accounts because actual payments exceeded the estimated provisions; and

£19.8 million for 366 staff in 2011/12, of whom 98 had left by 31 March and 268 had scheduled leaving dates. This excludes the £0.2 million explained above.

All of these figures are shown in the Commission's audited statutory accounts.

A copy of this letter will appear in *Hansard*.

Batumi

Question

Asked by Lord Ashcroft

To ask Her Majesty's Government when was the last time the United Kingdom Ambassador to Georgia visited Batumi. [HL2240]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): Our Ambassador last visited Batumi on 11 and 12 July 2012.

Belize

Question

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have been approached by the government of Belize or other parties to assist Belize in rescheduling its debts. [HL2233]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon):

Her Majesty's Government have not been approached by the Government of Belize or other parties to assist Belize in rescheduling its debts. We continue to have a dialogue with the Government of Belize on a wide range of issues.

Corporation of Trinity House

Question

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the redesign of the Corporation of Trinity House website was sanctioned by the Government; and if so, what were the costs placed on the General Lighthouse Fund. [HL2135]

Lord Newby: The redesign of Trinity House's website in respect of its activities as the General Lighthouse Authority for England and Wales cost £27,730. This cost was met from the annual budget sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government to cover all operating costs.

Crime and Courts Bill

Questions

Asked by Lord Touhig

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 17 July (WA 26-7), why the impact assessment on the provisions in clause 20 of the Crime and Courts Bill [HL] does not specifically address the potential impact on the housing security of offenders. [HL2156]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 17 July (WA 26-7), why the impact assessment on the provisions in clause 20 of the Crime and Courts Bill [HL] does not specifically address the potential impact on child poverty levels. [HL2157]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 17 July (WA 26-7), why the impact assessment on the provisions in clause 20 of the Crime and Courts Bill [HL] does not address the potential impact on the number of appeals to magistrates' courts and the associated costs. [HL2158]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord McNally on 17 July (WA 26-7), whether any discussions have been held by the Ministry of Justice with (1) the Department for Work and Pensions, (2) the Department for Education, or (3) the Office of the Children's Commissioner, regarding the impact on dependent children of proposed charges to recover the costs of collecting fines from offenders. [HL2159]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): An equality impact assessment is designed to ensure that our policies and services are aligned to deliver our public sector equality duties. An equality impact assessment has been made with regard to provisions in Clause 20 which identifies all likely impacts across a range of groups. An impact assessment on the provisions in Clause 20 of the Crime and Courts Bill has been published alongside the Bill and is available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/crime-courts-part2/

There is a very fine balance between protecting vulnerable debtors as well as ensuring that justice is served and the order of the court is met.

A fine is means tested and is based on the seriousness of the offence and the individual's ability to pay. Individuals are encouraged to complete their means form to ensure that the level of fine is set accordingly given their circumstances and if arrangements need to be made to assist payment.

Our aim has always been to increase the number of people who comply with their order and support individuals to pay in the compliance stage, thereby reducing the need for courts to use enforcement action. If offenders, particularly those that could be considered vulnerable, find themselves in hardship it is vitally important that they contact the court before going into default.

There are a variety of tools to help individuals to meet the order of the court and ensure that they do not default. Payment plans can be varied in their favour; money can be automatically deducted from benefits or earnings and individuals are sign posted to debt advice services. However this can only be done if the individual gets in contact with the court before going into default on their fine. In such circumstances offenders will not be subject to any collection costs or charges.

Dentistry: Training

Questions

Asked by **Lord Colwyn**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK dental graduates who applied for a Dental Foundation Training (DFT1) place in August 2012 were unsuccessful. [HL2178]

To ask Her Majesty's Government why new United Kingdom dental graduates have to complete Dental Foundation year 1 training before they are allocated an NHS performer number; and why graduates from the rest of the European Economic Area and other overseas graduates from non-United Kingdom universities are not subject to the same requirement. [HL2179]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Thirty-five dental graduates from dental schools in England and Wales were unsuccessful in obtaining a dental foundation training (DFT1) place out of an overall total of 1,145 eligible applicants. The Postgraduate Dental Deans are seeking to make arrangements whereby these dentists can maintain their skills pending the 2013 DFT1 recruitment exercise, in which some training places will be available from February 2013.

Dentists from the European Economic Area, with a recognised dental diploma, are exempt from dental foundation training in keeping with European wide legislation on mutual recognition of qualifications, which generally prohibits imposition of additional training requirements, or eligibility tests, which obstruct free movement to gain employment.

Departmental Replies: Notepaper

Question

Asked by **Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued any guidance to departments regarding the use of departmental notepaper in reply to mail from the general public; and, if so, whether that guidance gives advice as to the inclusion on notepaper of the postal address of the official responding. [HL2124]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: No.

DfID: Operational Plans

Question

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the Department for International Development's Operational Plans have not yet published an annual update for 2012; and why this is the case. [HL2221]

Baroness Northover: There are six DFID operational plans that have not yet published an annual update for 2012. Of these, three have been finalised and will be published by the end of September 2012. The remaining three (Southern Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia (UK Climate Change Unit)) are dependent on the outcome of further work with partner Governments and the interdepartmental UK Climate Change Unit. Operational plans will be published as soon as this work is complete.

DfID: Reserves

Question

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have exceeded their reserve for humanitarian emergencies in any of the last ten years; and, if so, by how much and from where additional funds have been drawn. [HL2224]

Baroness Northover: DfID has not exceeded its reserve for humanitarian emergencies in the past 10 years.

DfID: Spending Questions

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover (HL2047), how Department for International Development input sector codes are allocated across the 10 broad sectors outlined in the 2011 Statistics on International Development; and how these input sector codes are allocated across the 12 sectors in DFID's Annual Report 2011-12. [HL2222]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover (HL2047), why in its Annual Report 2011-12 the Department for International Development's bilateral spending is disaggregated across 12 sectors, whereas in its 2011 Statistics on International Development there are only 10 sectors; and how the 10 sectors in the latter document have been reallocated. [HL2223]

Baroness Northover: In the 2011 Statistics on International Development (SID), DfID published spending against the 10 broad sectors set out in internationally agreed Development Assistance Committee (DAC) reporting requirements.

In its Annual Report 2011-12, Figure 2.1, DfID disaggregated its bilateral spending across 12 areas which reflect priorities in the bilateral programme. All DfID projects are assigned input sector codes reflecting what the project is targeting. These are mapped to both the twelve areas presented in the Annual Report, and to the ten sectors reported in SID.

The mapping between the input sector codes and the 10 broad sectors reported in SID is set out in table A3 at the following location: www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/1/sid2011/A2-3.xls

A table showing the mapping between input sector codes and the twelve sectors presented in the Annual Report is attached and will be released to the House of Lords Library and will be published on DfID's website in due course.

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Economic	21010 Transport Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Economic	21021 Road Transport: Excluding Rural Feeder Roads	Wealth Creation
Economic	21022 Road Transport Rural Feeder Roads	Wealth Creation
Economic	21031 Other Transport	Wealth Creation

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Economic	22010 Communications Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Economic	22020 Telecommunications	Wealth Creation
Economic	22030 Radio/Television/Print Media: Communications	Wealth Creation
Economic	22040 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Wealth Creation
Economic	23010 Energy Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Economic	23020 Power Generation/Non-Renewable Sources: Energy	Wealth Creation
Economic	23030 Power Generation/ Renewable Sources: Energy	Wealth Creation
Economic	24010 Financial Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Economic	24020 Monetary Institutions	Wealth Creation
Economic	24030 Formal Sector Financial Intermediaries	Wealth Creation
Economic	24040 Informal/ Semi-Formal Financial Intermediaries	Wealth Creation
Economic	24081 Education/ Training in Banking and Financial Services	Wealth Creation
Economic	25010 Business Support Services and Institutions	Wealth Creation
Economic	25020 Privatisation	Wealth Creation
Education	11010 Education Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Education
Education	11020 Education Unallocable/ Unspecified	Education
Education	11110 Education Policy and Administrative Management	Education
Education	11120 Facilities and Training Education	Education
Education	11130 Teacher Training	Education
Education	11220 Primary Education	Education
Education	11230 Basic Life Skills for Youth and Adults Education	Education
Education	11240 Pre-School	Education
Education	11320 Secondary Education	Education

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Education	11330 Vocational Training	Education
Education	11420 Higher Education	Education
Education	11430 Advanced Technical and Managerial Training	Education
Environment Protection	41010 Environmental Policy and Administrative Management	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41020 Biosphere Protection	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41031 Bio-Diversity	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41032 Climate Change, Environment	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41090 Climate Change - Low Carbon Emissions	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41092 Climate Change - Cross Cutting	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41093 Climate Change - Adaptation	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41033 Desertification	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41040 Site Preservation	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41050 Flood Prevention/Control	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41060 Environment: Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41070 Environment Unallocable/ Unspecified	Climate Change
Environment Protection	41081 Environmental Education/ Training	Climate Change
Environment Protection	74010 Disaster Prevention and Preparedness	Climate Change
Government and Civil Society	15010 Government Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15020 Government Unallocated/ Unspecified	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15110 Economic and Development Policy/Planning	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15121 Public Sector Financial Management	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15122 Corruption - Public Sector Financial Management	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15130 Legal and Judicial Development	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15141 National Government Administration	Governance and Security

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Government and Civil Society	15142 Local Government Administration	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15150 Strengthening Civil Society	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15161 Elections	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15162 Human Rights	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15163 Free Flow of Information	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15164 Women's Equality Organisations and Institutions	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15171 Culture and Recreation	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15172 Statistical Capacity Building	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15173 Narcotics Control	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15210 Security System Management and Reform	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15220 Civilian Peace-Building, Conflict Prevention and Resolution	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15230 Post-Conflict Peace-Building (UN)	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15240 Reintegration and SALW Control	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15250 Land Mine Clearance	Governance and Security
Government and Civil Society	15261 Child Soldiers (Prevention and Demobilisation)	Governance and Security
Health	13041 HIV/AIDS including STD Prevention	HIV/Aids
Health	13042 HIV/AIDS including STD Treatment and Care	HIV/Aids
Health	12262 Malaria Control	Malaria
Health	12010 Health Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Other Health
Health	12020 Health Unallocable/ Unspecified	Other Health
Health	12110 Health Policy and Administrative Management	Other Health
Health	12220 Basic Health Care	Other Health
Health	12240 Basic Nutrition	Other Health
Health	12250 Infectious Disease Control	Other Health
Health	12261 Health Education	Other Health
Health	12263 Tuberculosis Control	Other Health

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Health	12281 Health Personnel Development	Other Health
Health	13010 Population Policy and Administrative Management	Other Health
Health	13081 Personnel Development for Population and Reproductive Health	Other Health
Health	13021 Reproductive Health Care	Reproductive, maternal and newborn health
Health	13022 Maternal and Neonatal Health	Reproductive, maternal and newborn health
Health	13030 Family Planning	Reproductive, maternal and newborn health
Non Sector Allocable	88889 Multilateral Capacity Building and Administration	Global Partnerships
Non Sector Allocable	88890 Multilateral Institutions: Secondees to & Staffing of	Global Partnerships
Non Sector Allocable	90010 Programme Partnership Agreements	Global Partnerships
Non Sector Allocable	92000 Support to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	Global Partnerships
Non Sector Allocable	99820 Promotion of Development Awareness	Global Partnerships
Non Sector Allocable	93020 Aid to Refugees in Recipient Countries	Humanitarian
Non Sector Allocable	60010 Action Relating to Debt	Wealth Creation
Production	31210 Forestry Policy and Administrative Management	Climate Change
Production	31220 Forestry Development	Climate Change
Production	72010 Material Relief Assistance and Services	Humanitarian
Production	72050 Relief Coordination, Protection and Support Services	Humanitarian
Production	73010 Reconstruction Relief and Rehabilitation	Humanitarian
Production	72040 Emergency Food Aid	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Production	31110 Agriculture Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	31120 Agricultural Development	Wealth Creation
Production	31130 Agricultural Land Resources	Wealth Creation

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Production	31163 Livestock: Agriculture	Wealth Creation
Production	31191 Agricultural Services	Wealth Creation
Production	31310 Fishing Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	31320 Fishery Development	Wealth Creation
Production	32110 Industrial Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	32120 Industrial Development	Wealth Creation
Production	32130 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME): Development	Wealth Creation
Production	32210 Mineral/ Mining Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	32310 Construction Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	32350 Production Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Wealth Creation
Production	33110 Trade Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	33120 Trade Facilitation	Wealth Creation
Production	33130 Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)	Wealth Creation
Production	33140 Multilateral Trade Negotiations	Wealth Creation
Production	33181 Trade Education/Training	Wealth Creation
Production	33210 Tourism Policy and Administrative Management	Wealth Creation
Production	43050 Non-Agricultural Alternative Development	Wealth Creation
Production	43020 Poverty Reduction Budget Support for Econ. Infrastructure & Dev. Planning	Wealth Creation
Production	43030 Urban Development and Management	Wealth Creation
Production	43040 Rural Development	Wealth Creation
Research	80010 Economic Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80011 Education Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80012 Health Research	Global Partnerships

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Research	80013 Water Supply and Sanitation Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80014 Governance Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80015 Social Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80016 Humanitarian Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80017 Renewable Natural Resources Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80018 Environment Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80019 Energy Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80020 Agricultural Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80021 Forestry Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80022 Fishery Research	Global Partnerships
Research	80023 Technological Research and Development	Global Partnerships
Research	80024 Unspecified/ Unallocated Research	Global Partnerships
Social Infrastructure and Services	16011 Social Protection	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	16012 Social Other	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	16020 Employment Policy & Admin Management	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	16030 Housing Policy and Admin Management	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	16040 Low-cost Housing	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	16070 Poverty Reduction Budget Support-Social infrastructure and services	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Social Infrastructure and Services	52010 Food Aid and Food Security Programmes	Poverty, Hunger and Vulnerability
Water Supply and Sanitation	14010 Water Resources Policy and Administrative Management	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14015 Water Resources Protection	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14020 Water Supply and Sanitation Large Systems	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14021 Water Supply — Large Systems	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14030 Basic Drinking Water	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14031 Basic drinking water supply	Water and Sanitation

Input Sector Codes Mapping - SID to DFID		
<i>SID Broad Sector Codes</i>	<i>Detailed DFID Input Sector Codes</i>	<i>DFID Broad Sector Codes</i>
Water Supply and Sanitation	14032 Basic sanitation	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14040 River Development	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14050 Waste Management and Disposal	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14060 Water Poverty Reduction Budget Support	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14070 Water Unallocable/ Unspecified	Water and Sanitation
Water Supply and Sanitation	14081 Education and Training	Water and Sanitation

Education: Student Loans

Questions

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to review the impact on access to further education of the move from grants to loans for funding further education for those over 24.

[HL2185]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland):

The introduction of 24+ Advanced Learning Loans will be evaluated following the launch of the loan applications system in April 2013. The evaluation will monitor the take-up of loans among the eligible group of learners aged 24 and above studying at level 3 and above, and consider the benefits of learning funded by a loan. It will also consider the response to loans from specific groups, including vulnerable learners.

This evaluation activity will build on research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and published in May 2012 on the attitudes of learners towards loans. This research informed the regulatory impact assessment and equality impact assessment of the loans policy published by BIS in June 2012.

Asked by *The Lord Bishop of Ripon and Leeds*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether those over 24 who use a further education course to access higher education will need to take out two loans; and, if so, what provision is available to alleviate any financial pressure put on such students.

[HL2186]

Lord Marland: From 2013-14, 24+ Advanced Learning Loans will be available for those aged 24 and over to undertake further education courses at level 3 and above. This will remove the need for these learners to pay fees up front for these courses and means they will have to repay only once they have left their course and are earning over £21,000. If these learners subsequently progress into higher education and take out further

loans, they will still repay only a fixed amount of 9% of their income above £21,000 once they have left their higher education (HE) course.

On 12 July, Ministers from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills announced an extensive and substantial package of support measures to be introduced alongside 24+ Advanced Learning Loans. This included an offer to write off any outstanding balance on a loan taken out for an Access to HE Diploma, on completion of a subsequent HE course. This measure was brought in specifically for Access to HE Diplomas as they are designed solely to help people progress to HE, in contrast with other further education courses. The package of measures also included a £50 million bursary fund to be disbursed by colleges and training organisations to help vulnerable learners meet additional costs associated with learning.

Elections: Malpractice

Questions

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of electoral fraud in relation to postal votes in each of the last 10 years.

[HL2043]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of elections that have had to be re-run as a result of electoral malpractice in each of the last 10 years.

[HL2044]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government take the integrity of the electoral system, and the perceived integrity of the system, very seriously and, in order to reduce the possibility of fraudulent entries to be included in the register, are speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration through the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill to strengthen the security of the system and reinforce public confidence in elections.

The Government have not made any assessment of the effect of the level of electoral fraud in relation to postal votes nor of the elections that have had to be re-run as a result of electoral malpractice in each of the last 10 years. However, since 2008 the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers have produced joint reports on the integrity of national elections. The March 2012 joint report by the Electoral Commission and ACPO found that the level of proven cases of electoral fraud remained low.

Elections: Postal Votes

Question

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of electoral returning officers verifying 100 per cent of postal votes.

[HL2096]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government's proposal to bring forward legislation to make it mandatory for Returning Officers to check 100% of postal vote identifiers

will help to ensure that any cases of suspected malpractice can be identified and reported to the police where warranted. It also reflects a general commitment which has been shown by Returning Officers in recent years both at local and national polls to check all postal vote identifiers which have been returned with postal votes.

For the purposes of the European Parliamentary elections in 2009, the UK parliamentary election in 2010 and the referendum on the voting system in 2011, a total of £9.4 million was provided centrally to enable Returning Officers and Counting Officers to check 100% of postal vote identifiers at these polls. We will review the actual amounts which were spent against the original allocation to determine the level of funding which Returning Officers will require to check 100% of postal vote identifiers at future UK parliamentary and European parliamentary elections.

Electoral Registration and Administration Bill

Question

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of their proposals in the Electoral Registration and Administration Bill on levels of electoral registration (1) among young people aged between 18 and 25, (2) among students, (3) among people with learning disabilities, (4) among people with disabilities more generally, (5) among people living in areas of high social deprivation, (6) among ethnic minorities, (7) in England, (8) in Scotland, (9) in Wales, (10) in metropolitan areas, (11) in urban areas, (12) in suburban areas, (13) in rural areas, (14) in coastal regions, (15) in Parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Conservative MPs, (16) in Parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Labour MPs, and (17) in Parliamentary constituencies currently represented by Liberal Democrats MPs.

[HL2042]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government have carried out a detailed programme of research to inform their decision-making on the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration. They have funded the Electoral Commission to publish an updated study on the Completeness and Accuracy of the Electoral Register to understand the scale of the challenge; they have funded an independent academic to carry out a literature review of all available research into electoral registration; and they have commissioned a qualitative study which explored the barriers to registration for those groups missing from the register under the current system, and those most at risk during the transition to IER. All of this information has been made publicly available to inform parliamentary scrutiny and debates (which is available on the Cabinet Office website).

Electoral Registration

Questions

Asked by Lord Wills

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to monitor levels of electoral registration in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, (5) 2019 and (6) 2020.

[HL2097]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they will provide for monitoring levels of electoral registration in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, (4) 2018, (5) 2019 and (6) 2020. [HL2098]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government funded a major Electoral Commission study of the completeness and accuracy of Great Britain's electoral registers in 2011, providing the first completeness estimates since those for the 2000 electoral registers for England and Wales and the first for accuracy since 1981.

The commission will carry out a "before and after" assessment of the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register over the transition to individual electoral registration, as set out in the report of its 2011 research (Electoral Commission, *Great Britain's Electoral Registers 2011*, pp. 7-8).

Beyond the December 2015 register, the Government expect the commission to continue its ongoing work monitoring the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in the United Kingdom

European Convention on Human Rights: Russia

Question

Asked by *Lord Judd*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take, in line with Article 46(4) of the European Convention on Human Rights, to refer infringement proceedings against Russia to the European Court of Human Rights, following more than 200 judgments against Russia for breaches of the Convention in Chechnya and the North Caucasus. [HL2120]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We remain deeply concerned about grave human rights violations in the North Caucasus region, including allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture and disappearances of individuals. We have made clear to the Russian Government, most recently at the UK-Russia Human Rights Dialogue in July, that putting an end to human rights violations is a vital element in the achievement of a long-term solution to the North Caucasus problems.

We will continue to call for Russia to implement fully European Court of Human Rights judgements, including pressing on individual cases through the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. To that end we will consider all of the tools at the Committee of Ministers' disposal.

European Investment Bank

Question

Asked by *Lord Stoddart of Swindon*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sassoon on 23 July (WA 90), on what evidence they base their confidence in the European Investment Bank's record of due diligence. [HL2212]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): As set out in the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Financial Report, as at 31 December 2011 the level of impaired loans amounted to 0.09% of the total loan portfolio.

As Moody's noted in a recent ratings report, "the EIB maintains careful project selection and monitoring as well as conservative policies regarding asset/liability management, credit risk management, and liquidity and borrowing controls".

EU: VAT

Questions

Asked by *Lord Pearson of Rannoch*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect on United Kingdom interests of the application to the sale of digital books and other digital publications of a 3 per cent VAT rate by Luxembourg and a 5.5 per cent VAT rate by France. [HL2180]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made about the compatibility of the application to the sale of digital books and other digital publications of a 3 per cent VAT rate by Luxembourg and a 5.5 per cent VAT rate by France with Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax (as amended); and what steps they have taken to persuade the European Commission to investigate the issue. [HL2181]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The Government do not believe that the reduced rates applied to digital books and other publications by France and Luxembourg, the effects of which it has not assessed, are compatible with the European Council Directive on the common system of value added tax. It is in the UK's interest to ensure that agreed European Union rules are enforced. The Government made their views clear to the European Commission, part of whose function is to ensure that EU law is upheld by member states. In a press release on 3 July 2012 the Commission announced the start of investigations into whether there had been an infringement of EU level legislation.

Finance: Kay Review

Questions

Asked by *Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to respond formally to the Kay Review, published in July 2012; and whether they accept the Report's recommendations concerning fiduciary duties. [HL2188]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have commissioned an independent review of the metrics and models employed in the investment chain, as recommended in the Kay Review. [HL2189]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has welcomed the Kay Review's final report,

calling it an important and timely contribution to the discussion of how we achieve equity markets that play a vital part in ensuring we have well run companies providing sustainable returns for investors.

The Government are currently considering all of Professor Kay's recommendations in depth and look forward to responding in detail later this year.

Asked by Baroness Drake

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement Recommendation 7 of the Kay Review of equity markets that "regulatory authorities at EU and domestic level should apply fiduciary standards to all relationships in the investment chain which involve discretion over the investments of others, or advice in investment decisions".

[HL2190]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has welcomed the Kay Review's final report, calling it an important and timely contribution to the discussion of how we achieve equity markets that play a vital part in ensuring we have well run companies providing sustainable returns for investors.

The Government are currently considering all of Professor Kay's recommendations in depth and look forward to responding in detail later this year.

Financial Stability: Algorithmic Trading Question

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have reviewed the risks to financial stability arising from algorithmic trading in United Kingdom equities.

[HL2232]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The implications of algorithmic trading are being considered under the review of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II). The Government, alongside the Financial Services Authority, are working with European partners to ensure that the MiFID II review appropriately considers the impacts of these technological developments to financial markets.

The Government have also commissioned work, which is being led by the Government Office for Science under the Foresight programme, on the future of computer trading in financial markets. The work includes an assessment of the impact of algorithmic trading. The report is due in autumn 2012.

Financial Stability: Quantitative Easing Questions

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the monetary base is not expanding in line with the value of quantitative easing.

[HL2231]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): The monetary base, or narrow money, includes notes and coins in circulation and commercial banks' reserves held at the Bank of England.

The monetary base has expanded as quantitative easing (QE) has increased. Data published by the Bank of England show that in August 2012 the total amount outstanding of narrow money was £315 billion, of which £63 billion was notes and coins while £252 billion was reserve balances.

The overall stock of reserves reflects both supply and demand factors. QE has increased the supply of reserves, but commercial banks have partially offset that by reducing the amount of reserves borrowed from the Bank of England via Open Market Operations.

The Bank of England's asset purchases during QE have largely been from non-bank financial institutions, including insurance companies and pension funds, which use the money received to purchase other assets such as corporate bonds and equities. Monetary Policy Committee members have stated that QE has been designed to circumvent the impaired banking system, by stimulating activity in the capital markets.

Asked by Lord Myners

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have considered cancelling the gilt-edged securities acquired under quantitative easing.

[HL2229]

Lord Sassoon: The independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has operational responsibility for monetary policy. Under the policy of quantitative easing (QE), the MPC makes decisions related to the appropriate stock of asset purchases required to meet the inflation target in the medium term.

The separation of fiscal and monetary policy is a key feature of the UK's economic policy framework. To use monetary policy tools to meet fiscal objectives, such as financing government borrowing, could conflict with the MPC's objective of price stability and undermine confidence in the UK's monetary and fiscal policy frameworks.

QE can be reversed by the MPC when it judges the time is right to tighten monetary policy in order to meet the inflation target in the medium term. Just as the purchase of assets with new central bank reserves eases monetary policy, so the sale of such assets back to the private sector would tighten monetary policy. The Bank can facilitate that tightening by selling the assets that are held by the Asset Purchase Facility.

Fire and Rescue Services Questions

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on metropolitan fire and rescue services outside London of the reduction in funding in the first two years of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

[HL2203]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): Metropolitan fire and rescue authorities outside London have had a change in their revenue spending power of -5.1% in 2011-12 and -1.8% in 2012-13.

Every bit of the public sector needs to do its bit to tackle the budget deficit left by the previous Administration, including local government which accounts for one-quarter of all public spending. Fire and rescue authorities should be seeking to make sensible savings without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities.

Areas where we believe significant saving can be found include flexible staffing arrangements, improved sickness management, pay restraint, sharing services and back office functions, improved procurement and sharing chief fire officers and other senior staff.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in the first two years of the current Comprehensive Spending Review, metropolitan fire and rescue services outside London received reductions in funding which were twice the national average, given that their initial equalities impact assessment in 2010 recognised that deprived areas would be worst affected by funding reductions. [HL2204]

Baroness Hanham: The Government used the same distribution formula inherited from the previous Administration. However, we increased the relative needs weighting so that more money followed socioeconomic indicators, benefiting metropolitan areas. In addition, overall metropolitan fire and rescue authorities benefit from some £26 million in 2011-13 thanks to the protection offered through floor damping.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they have made to representations from the Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities on the impact of larger than average reductions in funding on their ability to provide fire fighters and fire engines to assist national resilience at a major incident involving terrorism or flooding. [HL2205]

Baroness Hanham: Ministers and officials regularly meet with representatives from all types of fire and rescue authorities, including meeting with representatives for the Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Government will consider the representations that they and other fire and rescue authorities will make when making funding decisions for 2013-14.

Asked by Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the financial settlement for 2013-15, they will take into account representations made by the Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities that they should not repeat the distribution formula used in 2011-12 and 2012-13. [HL2206]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure a fair settlement for the funding of all fire and rescue services in 2013-15, along the lines proposed by the Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities; and, if not, why not.

[HL2207]

Baroness Hanham: The Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities submission has been noted.

On 17 July 2012 the Government published *Technical Consultation on Business Rates Retention*, detailing proposals for local authority funding from 2013-14. Responses are welcomed from all fire and rescue authorities by the closing date of 24 September 2012. All representations will be considered before final decisions are made. Provisional fire and rescue authority funding baselines will be announced at the usual time—in late November or early December this year.

Food: Free Food Banks

Question

Asked by Lord Greaves

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many free food banks are reported as being in operation in England (1) on 1 January 2011, (2) on 1 January 2012, and (3) currently. [HL1880]

Lord Newby: The Government do not collect data on the number of food banks.

Georgia

Question

Asked by Lord Ashcroft

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the presence of Russian troops in Georgia. [HL2239]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We continue to press for full Russian compliance with the Sarkozy-Medvedev six-point agreement, including Russian troop withdrawal to pre-2008 positions. By not fully complying with the agreement and by consolidating its military presence in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Russia is adding to tensions in the region. The UK fully supports Georgia's territorial integrity, and seeks a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

Government: Official Visits

Questions

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (HL1850), what were the 42 countries visited by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint in his ministerial capacity. [HL2166]

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint): I have visited the following countries:

France
 Switzerland
 Spain
 Qatar
 Kuwait
 Jordan
 Egypt
 India
 China
 Turkey
 United States of America*
 Germany*
 France*
 Brazil
 Belgium
 Nigeria
 South Africa
 United Arab Emirates
 Saudi Arabia
 Qatar*
 Russia*
 Libya
 Australia
 South Korea
 Taiwan
 Germany*
 Poland
 China*
 Pakistan
 Italy
 Sweden
 Norway
 Denmark
 Singapore
 Malaysia
 Thailand
 Czech Republic
 Romania
 Japan*
 Indonesia
 Malaysia*
 Turkey*
 Canada
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Estonia
 Finland
 Mexico

* Denotes countries visited more than once.

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (HL1850), what were the names, designations and roles of all officials who accompanied Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint on each of his official visits overseas. [HL2167]

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint: As is generally the case with other government Ministers, I am accompanied by a Private Secretary and, in rare cases, by an official with expertise in the specific country or region. The designation of officials ranges from junior through to senior civil servants.

Details of overseas visits I have undertaken are published on the department's website at <http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff>.

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (HL1850), why the official visits by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint are not listed on the Cabinet Office website, as stated in that Answer; and where they are listed. [HL2168]

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint: I apologise for previously stating that my official visits are listed on the Cabinet Office website; this is not the case. They are in fact listed on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website as per Cabinet Office guidance:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff>

Asked by Lord Foulkes of Cumnock

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint (HL1850), what is the estimated total cost of the official overseas visits undertaken by Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint. [HL2169]

Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint: As per Cabinet Office guidance, all my travel costs are published on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skill's website: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/transparency/staff>

Health: Babies

Question

Asked by Lord Avebury

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they collect about the numbers and percentages of babies conceived in each of the last ten years (1) without medical intervention, and (2) through in vitro fertilisation, which result in a baby with (a) abnormalities of the heart, and (b) other significant abnormalities. [HL2103]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Data on congenital anomalies are not held centrally by the department, but are and published by the British Isles Network of Congenital Anomaly Registers (BINOCAR).

The information provided in the following table gives the numbers of babies born with severe congenital heart defects and all other anomalies in the English registers for 2001-2010. However, it is not possible to say whether these babies were conceived without medical intervention or with In vitro fertilisation (IVF).

These data are for the following five English regional congenital anomaly registers—Berkshire & Buckinghamshire (CAROBB), East Midlands & South Yorkshire (EMSYCAR), Northern region (NorCAS), South West region (SWCAR), and Wessex (WANDA). They cover 32% of the births in England.

Table: Number of babies born with severe congenital heart defects and all other anomalies, 2001-2010

Year of birth	Population	Severe congenital heart defects ¹		All other anomalies ²	
		Prevalence per 10,000 total births	Number of cases	Prevalence per 10,000 total births	Number of cases
2001	115,495	267	23.1	2,361	204.4
2002	115,838	249	21.5	2,498	215.6
2003	127,566	279	21.9	2,509	196.7
2004	131,510	317	24.1	2,534	192.7
2005	198,315	447	22.5	4,337	218.7
2006	206,063	454	22.0	4,663	226.3
2007	212,953	479	22.5	4,619	216.9
2008	218,616	441	20.2	4,617	211.2
2009	217,861	442	20.3	4,552	208.9
2010	223,943	470	21.0	4,327	193.2

Notes:

¹ Includes babies with multiple anomalies

² Excludes babies with multiple anomalies where one is a severe congenital heart defect

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) holds a register of IVF treatment and number of resulting births, as defined in section 31 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended).

HFEA licensed centres report to the HFEA if a congenital abnormality is observed at the time of birth but this is not a mandatory requirement.

Health: Cervical Cancer

Question

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deaths from cervical cancer were recorded in England and Wales in 2011; and, given the link between Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and cervical cancer, what steps they are taking to promote awareness amongst adolescent girls of the protection provided by the HPV vaccination. [HL2154]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The number of deaths recorded in England from cervical cancer in 2011 was 781.

The department is responsible for the Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme in England. The department publishes leaflets, posters and web-based information to promote HPV vaccination. These materials are used locally by primary care trusts, general practitioners and others to inform girls of the benefits of HPV vaccination.

The HPV vaccination programme is one of the most successful in the world and is now embedded in the national routine immunisation schedule. In the 2010-11 academic year 84.2% of girls aged 12-13 received the recommended three doses of HPV vaccine.

Health: Circumcision

Question

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding by Dr Aaron Tobian and colleagues from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore that male circumcision confers health benefits, and what steps they will take to ensure that parents have access to information on the subject.

[HL2151]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): We have not made any assessment of the recent findings by Dr Aaron Tobian and colleagues in relation to the health benefits of male circumcision. The department has no plans to provide guidance on circumcision.

Health: Clinical Commissioning Groups

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that clinical commissioning groups are able to benefit from local expertise by recruiting secondary care clinicians from their area.

[HL2146]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ease the geographical restrictions on the recruitment of secondary care clinicians by clinical commissioning groups.

[HL2147]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to obtain appropriate advice from a broad range of health and care professionals to enable them to discharge their functions effectively. This would include secondary care clinicians, and engagement with secondary care will be essential in the redesign of health services.

The National Health Service (Clinical Commissioning Groups) Regulations 2012 require that each CCG governing body include at least one secondary care specialist. As we have made clear, to avoid any conflict

of interest, it is essential that the doctor is not employed by a provider from which the CCG usually commissions services. There are no plans to alter these restrictions.

However, this provision applies only to this mandatory, statutory role, and does not prevent CCGs from including other secondary care staff—including those employed by a provider from whom the CCG commissions services—in their governing body, or committees or sub-committees, or working with them in other ways.

Health: Foundation Trusts

Question

Asked by *Lord Beecham*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the current Department of Health guidelines on the appointment of non-executive directors of Foundation Trusts. [HL2116]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of non-executive directors appointed to Foundation Trusts since May 2010 are primarily experienced in the private sector. [HL2117]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Schedule 7 of the National Health Service Act 2006 sets out how appointments to the board of directors of NHS foundation trusts are made. The procedure for appointments should be formal, rigorous and transparent. Monitor provides guidance for board level appointments in The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance (section c, pages 16 to 17), which is available at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/homeinews-events-and-publications/our-publications/browse/category/guidance-foundation-trusts/mandat-3

The guidance was last updated to apply from 1 April 2010.

Information about appointed non-executive directors in foundation trusts is not held centrally.

Health: Medical Students

Questions

Asked by *Lord Crisp*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the benefits to United Kingdom medical students of elective periods overseas, particularly in low and middle-income countries. [HL2104]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy regarding overseas medical students gaining experience from elective periods in the United Kingdom. [HL2105]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of overseas medical students who come to the United Kingdom each year to gain experience in healthcare. [HL2106]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The Government have no role in the organisation of electives, but recognise their value to medical students in providing valuable experience.

Many United Kingdom medical schools offer students the chance to do their electives abroad and many take the opportunity.

Information on the number of overseas medical students coming to the UK for experience is not held centrally. A recent survey undertaken by Medsin of medical schools has shown that the UK hosts around 150 per year.

Health: NHS

Questions

Asked by *Lord Foulkes of Cumnock*

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many patients from Scotland received NHS treatment in hospitals in England in the most recent full year for which figures are available. [HL2170]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the cross-border charges levied for patients from Scotland receiving NHS treatment in hospitals in England in the most recent full year for which figures are available. [HL2171]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): The following tables show the number of inpatient finished admission episodes, outpatient attendances and accident and emergency attendances for patients resident in Scotland and treated in English hospitals for financial year 2010-11, the last for which finalised audited data are available.

Inpatient Admission Episodes (FAEs)

Year	Month	Scotland	Total FAEs
2010	April	674	1,197,916
2010	May	608	1,214,441
2010	June	662	1,267,020
2010	July	802	1,271,826
2010	August	712	1,207,305
2010	September	697	1,265,420
2010	October	722	1,260,699
2010	November	644	1,288,492
2010	December	528	1,185,182
2011	January	615	1,223,968
2011	February	522	1,173,697
2011	March	625	1,334,848
Total	2010-11	7,811	14,890,814

Outpatient Attendances

Year	Month	Scotland	Total Attendances
2010	April	1,414	5,625,951
2010	May	1,332	5,589,873
2010	June	1,603	6,187,189
2010	July	1,541	6,024,397
2010	August	1,365	5,586,435
2010	September	1,506	6,132,641
2010	October	1,515	5,815,430
2010	November	1,532	6,266,164
2010	December	1,072	4,978,292
2011	January	1,424	5,870,157
2011	February	1,360	5,675,057
2011	March	1,622	6,514,378
Total	2010-11	17,286	70,265,964

A+E Attendances

Year	Month	Scotland	Total Attendances
2010	April	1,552	1,361,001
2010	May	1,443	1,443,785
2010	June	1,562	1,397,321
2010	July	2,686	1,442,289
2010	August	1,874	1,345,139
2010	September	1,511	1,346,328
2010	October	1,553	1,356,486
2010	November	968	1,285,427
2010	December	1,113	1,322,514
2011	January	1,020	1,311,577
2011	February	948	1,212,860
2011	March	1,193	1,420,207
Total	2010-11	17,423	16,244,934

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Health and Social Care Information Centre. It should be noted that for each of these measures, the number does not necessarily equate to the number of patients as it is possible for an individual to have more than one admission or attendance within the period. Along the Scottish border, English National Health Service providers (NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts) enter into agreements with commissioners in Scotland which include predictions of the required volume of treatment, and the level and speed of payment.

Health: Secondary Care Clinicians

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of clinical commissioning groups have so far appointed a secondary care clinician to their board. [HL2145]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to ensure that the NHS Commissioning Board monitors clinical commissioning groups to ensure they employ the best experienced secondary care clinicians to their boards. [HL2148]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): No information is held on current recruitment levels at emerging clinical commissioning group (CCG) governing bodies. It will be for the NHS Commissioning Board (the Board), once established, to scrutinise the governance arrangements of prospective CCGs as part of the authorisation process to ensure governing bodies meet the requirements as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the National Health Service (Clinical Commissioning Groups) Regulations 2012.

In considering applications from CCGs to be established and authorised to take on their commissioning functions, the Board must satisfy itself that CCGs have appointed governing body members (which must include at least one secondary care doctor) with the right skills and competencies to discharge their responsibilities.

To support CCGs in the recruitment of appropriately qualified individuals to their governing bodies, the NHS Commissioning Board Authority has published *Towards Establishment: Creating Responsive and Accountable Clinical Commissioning Groups* and *CCG Governing Body Members: Role Outlines, Attributes and Skills*.

These documents explain the core and specific skill sets expected of governing body members, including for the mandatory secondary care doctor role.

HMRC

Question

Asked by **Lord Christopher**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have calculated what preparation, recruitment and staff training HM Revenue and Customs would be required to undertake before the introduction of a tax on wealth; and how long such a process would take. [HL2177]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): HM Revenue & Customs keeps its resourcing requirements under review in conjunction with policy developments. The department maintains the necessary level of tax expertise to enable it to assess the legislative and operational impact arising from proposed policy measures and their timely and cost-effective delivery.

Immigration: Support Applications

Question

Asked by **Lord Avebury**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for support under (1) section 4(1)(a), and (2) section 4(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1999 were (a) received, (b) granted, (c) refused, and (d) initially refused but subsequently granted on appeal, in (i) the first six months of 2012, and (ii) 2011. [HL2153]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office does not collect statistics on the number of applications, grants, refusals and appeals made under Section 4(1)(a) and (b) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Obtaining these data would require a manual search of individual case files held on asylum support, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Statistics on the number of failed asylum seekers accommodated by the UK Border Agency under Section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 as of the end of June 2012 are available from Table as.18.q (asylum Excel tables volume 5) within Immigration Statistics April-June 2012: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q2-2012/

Table as.18.q: Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 4 or Section 98 support, and decisions to grant Section 4 support

Quarter	Total supported under Section 98 as at the end of the quarter	Total supported under Section 4 as at the end of the quarter	Total grants of support under Section 4 during the quarter
2005 Q3	..	7,631	..
2005 Q4	..	5,145	..
2006 Q1	..	5,436	..
2006 Q2	..	6,145	..
2006 Q3	1,972	5,982	..

Table as.18.q: Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 4 or Section 98 support, and decisions to grant Section 4 support

Quarter	Total supported under Section 98 as at the end of the quarter	Total supported under Section 4 as at the end of the quarter	Total grants of support under Section 4 during the quarter
2006 Q4	1,523	6,554	..
2007 Q1	1,077	8,782	2,007
2007 Q2	851	9,365	1,637
2007 Q3	1,252	9,498	1,478
2007 Q4	1,441	9,141	1,584
2008 Q1	1,105	9,367	1,873
2008 Q2	1,025	9,618	2,219
2008 Q3	1,278	10,221	2,438
2008 Q4	1,240	10,296	2,578
2009 Q1	1,249	10,850	2,907
2009 Q2	846	11,388	3,141
2009 Q3	822	12,019	2,619
2009 Q4	634	11,655	1,442
2010 Q1	704	8,661	1,330
2010 Q2	544	6,751	2,038
2010 Q3	653	4,412	1,815
2010 Q4	650	3,560	1,438
2011 Q1	714	2,702	1,210
2011 Q2	809	2,461	929
2011 Q3	883	2,393	853
2011 Q4	962	2,310	796
2012 Q1	668	2,232	875
2012 Q2	847	2,360	1,067

International Passenger Surveys

Questions

Asked by **Lord Laird**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 3 July (*WA 152*), why International Passenger Survey (IPS) interviews for foreign residents arriving in the United Kingdom are half the average length of IPS interviews; whether children are interviewed; what are the most common reasons for declining an interview; and what steps are taken in the case of an illiterate non-English speaker. [HL2094]

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Wallace of Saltaire on 3 July (*WA 152*), how many self-completion questionnaires in Romanian have been issued in the last five years; and what proportion this represents of the total number of self-completion questionnaires issued. [HL2095]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, Director General for the Office for National Statistics, to Lord Laird, dated September 2012

Dear Lord Laird

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Questions to Her Majesty's Government, asking

- why International Passenger Survey (IPS) interviews for foreign residents arriving in the United Kingdom are half the average length of IPS interviews; whether children are interviewed; what are the most common reasons for declining an interview; and what steps are taken in case of an illiterate non-English speaker. HL2094

- how many self-completion questionnaires in Romanian have been issued in the last five years; and what proportion this represents of the total number of self-completion questionnaires issued. HL2095

I am able to report the following details.

1. The IPS is a multi-purpose survey, including provision of statistics relating to overseas travel and tourism (i.e. visits of less than 12 months' duration), and international migration. The vast majority of passengers sampled on IPS are visiting for less than 12 months. These passengers are asked a shorter interview of approximately two minutes as they start their visit (i.e. overseas residents in the case of arrivals interviews) and a longer interview of approximately four minutes when they end their visit (i.e. UK residents for arrivals interviews). The latter includes questions probing details such as spending on the visit, length of stay, main purpose of visit.

2. Children are selected for interview on IPS. The information relating to the child's visit is typically provided by an accompanying adult on the child's behalf.

3. It is typically not possible to gauge the reason for declining an interview as the respondent will simply refuse to take part. Such cases are recorded as "refused". In 2011, 1.5% of cases refused.

4. In the case of an illiterate non-English speaker the interviewer will (unless s/he is able to speak that language) seek to ask help from passengers accompanying this individual to gain the information that is required. Further, steps are taken to obtain nationality and residence information from that respondent (for example by asking to see their passport) and this information is used in subsequent analysis. Other steps are taken in cases of language or literacy difficulties, including use of foreign language questionnaires and conducting the full interview verbally without requiring the respondent to read anything.

5. In the last five years 57 self-completion questionnaires have been completed by Romanian nationals. This represents 3.5% of the total number of self-completion questionnaires issued.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Penneck

Director General for ONS

Iraq: Chilcot Inquiry

Question

Asked by **Lord Dykes**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the publication of the report of the Iraq inquiry chaired by Sir John Chilcot has been delayed. [HL2209]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The inquiry is independent of government, and the completion of its report is a matter for the inquiry committee. Sir John Chilcot wrote to the Prime Minister on 13 July to inform him of the inquiry's progress. Pulling together and analysing the evidence and identifying lessons learnt for a report that covers such a wide and complex range of issues across a nine-year period is a very significant task. Considerable progress has been made but there is still much to be done. Sir John advised the Prime Minister that the inquiry will be in a position to begin the Maxwellisation process (by which individuals subject to criticism in the report are given the opportunity to make representations to the inquiry before the report is finalised) by the middle of 2013. The report will be submitted to the Prime Minister once that process is complete. Sir John's letter and the Prime Minister's response have both been published on the Iraq inquiry website.

Isles of Scilly: Helicopter Services

Question

Asked by **Lord Christopher**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have to provide short-term and long-term assistance to the Isles of Scilly following the decision by British International Helicopter Services Limited to cease its scheduled service to the Isles on 31 October.

[HL2172]

Earl Attlee: We understand that the operators of the ferry and fixed-wing air services are considering what they can do in the short term to meet the demand for travel, and that efforts are being made locally to explore whether other potential helicopter operators would be willing to provide services. We hope there is a positive outcome to these discussions.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, the honourable Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), met with a delegation from the Isles of Scilly on Monday 10 September.

Israel and Palestine

Questions

Asked by **Lord Steel of Aikwood**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel concerning its plans to demolish eight villages in the South Hebron hills in the occupied West Bank for the purpose of creating an Israeli Defence Forces base.

[HL2110]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We have raised our concerns about the threatened demolitions in villages in the South Hebron hills with the Israeli authorities, highlighting the adverse effect these would have on the local population. Our ambassador to Israel raised our strong concerns

to Israel's Co-ordinator of Government Activities in the Territories on 10 July and again on 16 July.

Our consul-general in Jerusalem visited the communities under threat of demolition and displacement with European Union (EU) partners on 13 August, to demonstrate concern at the humanitarian impact of any house demolitions and forced transfer of population, and to express the UK and EU's commitment to a sustainable future for the Palestinian communities in Area C.

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the result of the meeting on 16 July between HM Ambassador in Tel Aviv, HM Consul-General in Jerusalem, and Major-General Dangot; whether the meeting enabled all of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's approved projects to be started; and what impact the meeting had on the position of 28 further projects for which approval was pending.

[HL2214]

Baroness Warsi: Our ambassador in Tel Aviv and consul-general in Jerusalem raised our concerns relating to the difficulties in importing construction materials into Gaza with the Co-ordinator of the Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) Major General Dangot on 16 July. Along with our European partners, we are urging Israel to allow an increase in large-scale imports of construction and raw materials for the private sector and international reconstruction and development projects, a relaxation on movement of people, particularly between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Following the meeting on 16 July, we have sought a further update from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) on the status of the 28 projects for which approval was pending. On 12 September, UNRWA was informed by COGAT that 10 projects had been rejected.

We have concerns about the lack of transparency over the approvals process and will continue to monitor this issue closely.

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last discussed with the government of Israel that government's refusal to allow residence in Israel to the spouses of Israel's Palestinian citizens born in the West Bank or outside Israel; what was the result of such discussion; and, if it was negative, whether they will renew it.

[HL2219]

Baroness Warsi: While Israeli nationality law and immigration into Israel are matters for the Israeli Government and parliament, we and European Union partners have concerns about the implications of the "Nationality and Entry into Israel" law for the families of Arab Israelis and Palestinian permanent residents in East Jerusalem who have married, or wish to marry, Palestinians from the West Bank or Gaza. In many cases the law has made it difficult or impossible for

Palestinians to get permission to join their spouses or parents in East Jerusalem, which we regard as occupied territory.

Along with our EU partners, we regularly raise issues relating to access and residency in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Israel and Palestine: Israeli Settlers

Question

Asked by **Lord Hylton**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ban Israeli settlers in the West Bank, who have been convicted of offences against Palestinians or against whom evidence exists of illegal acts or breaches of international law, from entry into the United Kingdom. [HL2218]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): There are no plans to ban Israeli citizens who live in the West Bank from travelling to the United Kingdom. Israeli citizens who hold valid travel documents may travel to the UK and seek permission to enter if they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

Legal Services: Triennial Review

Question

Asked by **Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost of the Triennial Review of the Legal Services Board and the Office for Legal Complaints, published in July 2012. [HL2187]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The estimated cost of the Triennial Review to the department is £22,000. This includes staff, publication and travel costs.

Local Government: Local Audit Bill

Questions

Asked by **Lord Christopher**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what practical steps they have taken to anticipate and prepare for the implementation of the Draft Local Audit Bill; and what were the costs of those steps. [HL2173]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): In anticipation of the implementation of the Local Audit Bill we asked the commission to outsource the work of its in-house audit practice to the private sector, the final step of which will be the transfer of the audit practice staff on 31 October 2012. The commission has also scaled back other activities, for example, its programme of research and publications, in preparation for moving to a small residual body by April 2013. My officials are working closely with the commission, other government departments and key

partners to prepare for the transfer of regulatory and other responsibilities to other bodies when the commission closes.

The Department provided a guarantee to the Audit Commission pension scheme in May 2012. By providing the guarantee we were able to avoid early crystallisation of liabilities and a potential immediate cost of over £400 million. The scheme is well funded and it is expected that, subject to future investment returns, the eventual cost will be limited, or even nothing.

We estimate the net financial benefit of ending routine inspection and assessment, closing the Audit Commission and introducing a new local audit framework as £1.15 billion over a ten-year period, of which £650 million will be realised in the next five years. Full details can be found in the impact assessment published alongside the draft Bill on 6 July 2012. The impact assessment can be viewed at: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/draftlocalauditbill

The commission is primarily covering its own costs from income and reserves, and its transitional costs are set out in detail in the impact assessment. The department contributed £11.9 million towards the commission's redundancy costs in 2011/12. The National Audit Office's budget has been adjusted to reflect the work of developing its approach to the new code of audit practice, along with starting to undertake local value for money studies. The Public Accounts Commission has agreed an increase in net resource requirements for the National Audit Office of £2.3 million in 2012/13, £2.8 million in 2013/14 and £3.4 million in 2014/15, the majority of which relates to new work arising from the abolition of the Audit Commission. We do not have any estimates for the costs of preparatory work undertaken by other organisations.

Asked by **Lord Christopher**

To ask Her Majesty's Government who, under the terms of the Draft Local Audit Bill, would have responsibility for considering and propagating best practice and cost-effectiveness in local government; and who would have responsibility for investigating fraud in the area of local government. [HL2175]

Baroness Hanham: Responsibility for disseminating best practice and cost effectiveness in local government rests with local government. The Local Government Association through its sector-led improvement programme offers councils peer review services. Peer reviews support the sharing of best practice and cost effectiveness which help members and officers achieve greater efficiencies. The Government support and help to fund the Local Government Association's approach to its sector-led improvement role.

The draft Bill includes powers which will enable the National Audit Office to undertake a small number of thematic value-for-money studies covering local delivery, providing an end-to-end view on the use of public money and helping to hold central government departments to account for the money they provide to local government. The National Audit Office will be able to draw on its national value-for-money studies experience and work with the local government sector

to design studies which highlight good practice in the economical, efficient and effective use of resources across local authorities.

The Audit Commission has powers to run data-matching exercises for the purpose of assisting in the prevention and detection of fraud, which it currently operates through the National Fraud Initiative. The Government are committed to the retention of the National Fraud Initiative following the closure of the Audit Commission. Provisions for the transfer of the data-matching powers to a new operational owner are included in the draft Bill, and discussions are ongoing as to who would be best placed to take on this role. As now, local authorities will continue to be responsible for investigating fraud in their own organisations, including any potential fraud identified by the National Fraud Initiative.

Full details of the proposals are set out in the Command Paper, available at www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/futurelocalaudit/

The proposals will be refined through pre-legislative scrutiny.

Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2012: Security

Questions

Asked by **Lord Prescott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any private company other than G4S contracted to provide trained security personnel for the Olympic Games by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is failing to deliver its contractual obligations. [HL1611]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The principal contract for trained security personnel for the London 2012 Games is between the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and G4S. LOCOG has confirmed it has no other contracts with private companies in this area.

Asked by **Lord Prescott**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the estimated cost of the provision of extra troops to meet the failure of the G4S Olympic Games contract to deliver agreed numbers of trained security personnel; and whether that cost will be met from any penalties or fines imposed pursuant to the G4S contract. [HL1612]

Lord Taylor of Holbeach: No firm estimate is yet agreed for the cost of providing additional military personnel to carry out venue security roles at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. G4S has made it clear that it will bear any additional military and policing costs arising from failure to meet its contractual obligations.

Overseas Territories

Question

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what capital grants and subsidies, in respect of transport, development and budgetary aid, have been provided in each of the last ten years for (1) Ascension Island, (2) St Helena, and (3) the Falkland Islands; and what is the population of each of those territories. [HL2138]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): St Helena, Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands receive capital grants, subsidies and budgetary support from both the Department for International Development (DfID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

DfID provides budgetary aid to St Helena and Tristan da Cunha. The figures below for St Helena include money given to Tristan da Cunha (St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha form a single territorial grouping under the Crown). A breakdown of the figure which goes solely to St Helena is unavailable.

Ascension Island and the Falkland Islands do not receive any direct bilateral capital grants, subsidies or budgetary aid from DfID.

In November 2011 a contract was signed between St Helena Government and Basil Read (Pty) Ltd for the design, construction and operation of an airport on St Helena. The contract will be in the amount of £201.5 million for the design and construction of the airport, with an additional amount of up to £10 million in shared risk contingency, and £35.1 million for 10 years of operation.

DfID funding figures

St Helena and Tristan da Cunha

2001-02	£10,106,000
2002-03	£9,555,000
2003-04	£10,525,000
2004-05	£14,481,000
2005-06	£13,563,000
2006-07	£15,692,000
2007-08	£17,550,000
2008-09	£35,738,000
2009-10	£22,701,000
2010-11	£31,050,000
2011-12	Figures yet to be published

In the past 10 years all UK Overseas Territories have been eligible to receive funds from the FCO's Strategic Programme Funds. These have been used to allow purchases of capital equipment, upgrade critical infrastructure, to assist Territory Governments in bolstering the human capacity of their civil services and to review or update their legislations. The majority of the budget allocations are managed by the Territory Governors though payments are also made as grants or budgetary support.

Records of expenditure held centrally at the FCO date back to financial year 2007-08. Figures for spend for years prior to this are held in the Archives Department and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

FCO FUNDING FIGURES

St Helena

2007/08	£116,054
2008/09	£41,532
2009/10	£57,000
2010/11	£77,000
2011/12	£96,583

Ascension Island

2007/08	£ 116,345
2008/09	£108,940
2009/10	£65,000
2010/11	£2,052,000*
2011/12	£78,590

* In 2010-11 the FCO funded the purchase of a new harbour crane on Ascension Island as part of a wider budgetary stabilisation programme.

Falkland Islands

2007/08	£61,700
2008/09	£162,865
2009/10	£232,506
2010/11	£35,000
2011/12	£45,000

St Helena, as of July 2012, has a population of 4,230.

Ascension Island, as correct at December 2011, has a population of 800.

The Falkland Islands, as correct at April 2012, has a population of 2,563 (excluding civilian contractors at Mount Pleasant Airfield). As non-residents, military personnel are not included.

Pensions: British Rail

Question

Asked by **Lord Rosser**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is any signed Memorandum of Understanding between any Minister at the Department for Transport, the British Rail Pension Trustee and the British Railways Board, providing for an absolute solvency guarantee for retail price index-linked payments from the pension fund of pensions already in payment and those which had been deferred, in order to ensure that the pensions of exiting, deferred and future British Rail pensioners would be fully protected after rail privatisation; and whether they continue to honour the terms of any such Memorandum of Understanding. [HL2226]

Lord Newby: In 1993, during the passage of the rail privatisation legislation (i.e. Railways Act 1993) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by a Minister of State at the Department of Transport (as it was then known), the British Rail Pension Trustee

Company and British Rail was tabled in the Lords in connection with the debate on the Schedule of the Bill which addressed pensions (subsequently enacted as Schedule 11 of the Act).

With regards to then existing and deferred British Rail pensioners the MoU indicated that agreement had been reached that a closed fund should be set up. Given those beneficiaries would no longer be paying contributions to the scheme the MoU indicated that the Government would provide an absolute guarantee of the solvency of the closed fund up to the level of RPI index linked pension payments. It did not guarantee that individual pension payments would be index linked by reference to the RPI; pension payments would be increased in line with the provisions of the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 for uprating "official pensions" (i.e. various public sector pensions including the principal civil service pension scheme, teachers and NHS pensions). At the time of the MoU the RPI would have been used as the appropriate index for uprating official pensions.

The principles in the MoU were developed further and they continue to be honoured through: the Railways Act 1993; the setting up of the closed fund (the 1994 Pensioners Section of the Railways Pension Scheme); the Rules of the Section and the issue of a legally binding Government solvency guarantee given under the powers conferred by the Act.

Population Growth

Question

Asked by **Lord King of West Bromwich**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effects of population growth on (1) housing, (2) education, and (3) social services; and what steps they have taken to plan for further growth. [HL1753]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: There are many factors influencing population change across the whole of the UK, and at a more local level it is for departments to consider the implications of population change on their policy areas.

Post Office: Credit Union Services

Question

Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Consumer Focus report *Credit where Credit's Due*, which proposes the provision of credit union services through the Post Office Network. [HL2163]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: The Government agree that the expansion of the credit union sector is important. The Department for Work and Pensions is leading a project with the potential to invest up to £38 million over three years, which will ask the sector to come forward with solutions to modernise, expand and achieve financial self-sustainability. The Government see the potential for Post Office Ltd to explore options for

closer engagement with the sector as part of this initiative, where this is a viable option for both parties, building on the company's existing links with the sector.

Post Office: DVLA Contract

Question

Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to withdraw the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency contract from the Post Office. [HL2160]

Lord Newby: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) has a five-year contract with Post Office Limited to deliver services via its branch network. This contract expires on 31 March 2013. There is currently a procurement process underway for front office counter services which will replace the current contract. Post Office Limited is one of the companies still in the process.

Post Office: Government Contracts

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that existing government contracts with the Post Office are protected. [HL2161]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they offer the Post Office to bid for government contracts. [HL2162]

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: Post Office Ltd has set out its ambition to retain existing, and to provide more, services on behalf of central and local government, including through developing new services that support Government's plans to deliver more services digitally.

While the company operates commercially at arm's length from government, we have been absolutely clear that we support Post Office Ltd in its ambition. The government department or agency responsible for a particular service will decide how best to deliver that service and must, of course, procure these services in line with EU procurement regulations.

Prisons: Remand

Question

Asked by **Lord Beecham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take, in the light of the recent report of the Chief Inspector of Prisons on remand prisoners, to improve the conditions of prisoners remanded in custody pending trial or sentence. [HL2113]

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is examining the recommendations and general messages contained in the report of the review of the

Chief Inspector of Prisons on how remand prisoners are managed. These are being carefully considered and NOMS will formally respond to the Chief Inspector in due course.

However, NOMS has already taken some immediate steps in response to two of the eight recommendations in the report. Specifically, the Director of National Operational Services in NOMS has written to all governors to remind them that all un-convicted prisoners must be asked for their agreement before being allocated to a shared cell with a convicted prisoner. In addition, governors have been reminded that remand prisoners are entitled to exercise their right not to work and that they should not be penalised for so doing.

Remploy

Questions

Asked by **Lord Roberts of Llandudno**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what alternative employment has been offered to former Remploy employees who have been made redundant. [HL2141]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what training is available to former Remploy employees undertaking new jobs. [HL2142]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what difference there will be in the number of hours worked and wages received by workers redeployed from Remploy factories. [HL2143]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to ensure that alternative jobs are available to all former Remploy employees. [HL2144]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): All disabled people who are made redundant as a result of the changes to Remploy have been offered a comprehensive suite of support available through the DWP people help and support package (PHSP).

Currently the PHSP is providing people with an unprecedented level of individualised and tailored support. The Government have made £8 million available to fund the delivery of this support across the United Kingdom which will provide individual tailored support through a dedicated personal case worker (PCW) for up to 18 months.

The PCW is the heart of the support offer for disabled staff. They will hold meetings and discussion with affected employees to best identify suitable support and opportunities and signpost or refer them to appropriate provision.

PCWs will work with the individual to develop an action plan, using information from Remploy's ability profile skills and needs assessment. The action plan will identify how to address an individual's employment and personal issues by utilising the skills and experience available locally from partner agencies.

People leaving Remploy can access the range of government-funded training options that might help them secure mainstream employment and can find out

more about the opportunities open to them from their PCW. The Department for Work and Pensions is also working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Skills Funding Agency to ensure that ex-Remploy employees will be able to access fully funded skills training at their local college or training provider where available.

Additionally as part of the PHSP, the Employers Forum on Disability is working with their employer members to offer targeted opportunities to Remploy employees under the "First Shot" programme. EFD will encourage its members to offer a range of opportunities to support ex-Remploy employees in obtaining alternative employment. These opportunities can include guaranteed interviews, work trials, industry sector specific training, pre-application training, on-the-job training and employer training in how to make adjustments for particular impairments.

DWP's National Employment Service Team is working with Disability Symbol employers to identify potential suitable job or work-related opportunities and signpost ex-Remploy employees.

The key aim of PHSP is to ensure that individuals have maximum opportunity for exercising their choice and control for their future based on their ability, aspirations and the opportunities available to them.

As of 31 August 2012, 35 affected Remploy employees have already been placed into alternative employment. However, we are unable to make direct connections between the earnings and hours provided by these new employers and those supplied by Remploy.

Royal Mail: Postage Stamps

Questions

Asked by *Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the financial loss to Royal Mail caused by the reuse of non-cancelled and washed postage stamps over the past five years. [HL2121]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Lord Marland): This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to my noble friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Library of the House.

Asked by *Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to eliminate postal fraud through the resale of used postage stamps on the internet. [HL2122]

Lord Marland: The Government do not have any current plans to prevent the selling of used postage stamps over the internet. The reuse of postage stamps that have been through Royal Mail is illegal and existing law provides for prosecutions.

Royal Mail monitors the sale of postage stamps on internet sites to ensure that, where necessary, vendors

inform potential buyers that used postage stamps are invalid and that it is illegal to reuse such postage stamps.

The security features added to Royal Mail's postage stamps in 2009 have made potential reuse more difficult. Royal Mail will continue to look at security enhancements to help protect the company against such fraudulent activity.

Asked by *Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope*

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to require internet auction sites such as eBay to refuse to carry advertisements for the resale of used postage stamps. [HL2123]

Lord Marland: The Government do not have any current plans to require internet auction sites to refuse to carry advertisements about the resale of used postage stamps.

Royal Mail monitors the sale of postage stamps over the internet to ensure that, where necessary, vendors inform potential buyers that used postage stamps are invalid and that it is illegal to reuse such postage stamps.

Royal Mail will, if necessary, take legal action against vendors who continue to sell used postage stamps for reuse.

Rwanda

Question

Asked by *Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne*

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover (HL2000), whether the Secretary of State for International Development has now decided whether Rwanda has broken DfID's partnership principles; if not, when such a decision is due; when the United Kingdom's next general budget support payment would have taken place after July, and whether this will be delayed as well; whether DfID has delayed sector budget support payments as well as general budget support; and, if not, why not. [HL2225]

Baroness Northover: On 4 September, the then Secretary of State for International Development issued a Written Ministerial Statement on the Department for International Development's (DfID) decision to disburse half of the UK's delayed general budget support payment to Rwanda. As indicated in the Statement, the remaining half is being channelled into programmes in education and food security. Sector budget support payments were not delayed so as to avoid harming service delivery to the poor. There are still concerns that Rwanda could do more to meet fully DfID's partnership principles for budget support. DfID is scheduled to make a further general budget support payment in December. The decision on this payment will be made following an assessment of all relevant considerations.

Security: G4S

Question

Asked by **Lord Kennedy of Southwark**

To ask Her Majesty's Government which services they expect G4S to take charge of from Lincolnshire Police. [HL1864]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Decisions to engage private sector providers are taken by chief constables and approved by police authorities or, from November, elected police and crime commissioners.

Private companies will not carry out police activities that require warranted powers, except to the extent that this is already permitted for detention and escort officers by legislation passed in the Police Reform Act 2002.

Information regarding the scope of services to be provided by G4S to Lincolnshire Police is available on the force's website.

South Sudan

Question

Asked by **Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Northover on 28 June (*WA 109*), whether they are considering re-evaluating their approach to accountability and transparency in South Sudan, in the light of the alleged theft of at least £2.6 billion during the time when they have been donor lead on this issue. [HL2220]

Baroness Northover: The UK does not directly channel any money through the Government in South Sudan. In South Sudan we route funds through non-governmental organisations, private sector firms and multilateral agencies that have robust financial management systems.

As a new country emerging from years of conflict, South Sudan faces huge challenges in putting in place strong and effective financial management systems and introducing a culture of intolerance to corruption.

The UK took on the role of donor lead on accountability and transparency in May 2011. Over the last year we have strengthened our support for action to tackle corruption. Our work with the Government is ensuring that anti-corruption and improved accountability are high on their agenda and that they take concrete steps to stop the theft of public funds. This includes UK support to strengthen government budgeting and financial management systems and make the key accountability institutions (the National Audit Chamber and the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission) more effective. We keep all our programmes under regular review.

Transport: A371 Road Closure

Question

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the economic and environmental effects of the closure of the A371 at its crossing of the rail line in Ausford Bridge in Somerset owing to National Rail maintenance works. [HL2197]

Earl Attlee: We have made no assessment of this road closure. Decisions about traffic management, including whether roads are closed or not, are a matter for the relevant highway authority.

Transport: Flexibility Scheme

Question

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish draft regulations to implement European Directive 2011/88/EU of 16 November 2011 amending Directive 97/68/EC on the provisions for engines placed on the market under the flexibility scheme. [HL2134]

Lord Newby: The UK regulations are currently being drafted by Department for Transport officials and the Government will place them before both Houses as soon as the proper checking process is completed. I regret that I am unable to give a precise date but anticipate that this will be in the near future.

Transport: Rail Franchises

Question

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure fair competition between incumbent passenger rail franchisees which are part of an Alliance with Network Rail and other operators in franchise tenders; and whether Network Rail can participate with a train operator in franchise bids. [HL2137]

Lord Newby: The Department for Transport follows a clear, fair and competitive procurement process for franchises which seeks to secure the best value for money bids on behalf of rail passengers and taxpayers. A data site is available to all bidders, including incumbent operators, to share the information required to create a bid. This would include information about how any alliance that had been in operation on the franchise had worked.

The Department does encourage bidders for franchises to work with Network Rail and other stakeholders in preparing bids, which are assessed within the scope of the current contractual or regulatory framework.

Transport: Railway Works

Question

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they give to (1) local authorities, and (2) Network Rail, regarding the provision of advance warning to residents, traders and businesses prior to railway works that occasion the closure of major roads for long periods. [HL2198]

Lord Newby: The closure of roads for any purpose is a matter for the relevant highway authority and is undertaken under the Traffic Order process. No guidance or advice on consultation procedures is currently given.

The planning and notification of all railway engineering works are operational matters for Network Rail under the industry's national possessions planning regime overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation. Network Rail liaises with the relevant highway authority, local residents, traders and businesses as appropriate.

Transport: Satellite Navigation

Question

Asked by **Lord Berkeley**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the General Lighthouse Authorities' Research and Radionavigation Directorate has signed any contractual agreements for the use of eLoran satellite navigation services; what is the total value of any contracts signed; and whether there have been any further expressions of interest in the technology prompted by concerns over satellite navigation vulnerabilities. [HL2136]

Lord Newby: eLoran, a terrestrial low frequency navigation system that could be used as an independent back-up to satellite-based systems, is at an early stage of development by the General Lighthouse Authorities' Research and Radionavigation Directorate. It is too early for contractual agreements to be signed with third parties as it is a trial system, not currently in commercial use.

Turkey: Minorities

Questions

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of religious freedom enjoyed by the Alevi minority in Turkey. [HL2199]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): We have not made a specific assessment of the level of religious freedom enjoyed by the Alevi population in Turkey. However, we are aware of the recent pressure experienced by the Alevis. Along with the European Union Commission and others, we

strongly encourage Turkey to maintain efforts to strengthen freedoms for all religious minorities in Turkey including the Alevis.

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of religious freedom enjoyed by the Alawite minority in Turkey. [HL2200]

Baroness Warsi: We have not made a specific assessment of the religious freedoms enjoyed by the Alawite minority in Turkey.

Together with our European Union partners, we encourage Turkey to make progress on respect for, and tolerance of, minority groups, including the Alawite minority.

Asked by **Lord Patten**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of human rights and freedoms enjoyed by Kurds in Turkey. [HL2201]

Baroness Warsi: We share concerns expressed by the European Commission, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Council of Europe and others over problems faced by Kurds in Turkey. Freedom of expression continues to be a major cause for concern including the continuing detention of journalists, MPs and others.

We welcome the announcement of the third judicial reform package to address some of the issues surrounding detention and news of a fourth package of measures to improve fundamental rights. We urge Turkey to implement these reforms promptly to improve the climate for freedom of expression.

Plans to extend the provision of the Kurdish language in schools are an encouraging sign in extending the human rights of Kurds.

Valuation Office: Appeals

Questions

Asked by **Baroness Scott of Needham Market**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many appeals against (1) council tax banding, and (2) business rate assessments, are currently lodged with the Valuation Office. [HL2164]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average length of time taken by the Valuation Office to make a determination on an initial appeal against a council tax banding. [HL2165]

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Sassoon): (1) Council Tax bands

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) received 21,960 valid proposals and appeals against bandings in the Council Tax Valuation Lists for England and Wales during the 2011-12 financial year.

(2) Business rates assessments

The VOA received 169,610 formal challenges against assessments in the 2010 rating list during the 2011-12 financial year.

The VOA arrived at a considered decision and issued a decision notice on council tax proposals for England and Wales within two months of receipt in 99.3% of cases during the 2011-12 financial year.

Visas: Medical Students*Questions*

Asked by Lord Crisp

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK Border Agency will simplify the visa application process so that United Kingdom medical schools can establish elective programmes for overseas students which provide comparable experience to those undertaken by United Kingdom medical students overseas. [HL2107]

To ask Her Majesty's Government why the UK Border Agency requires overseas medical students on short visits to the United Kingdom to go through the tier four visa arrangements. [HL2108]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK Border Agency will enter into discussions with United Kingdom medical schools about simplifying visa arrangements for overseas medical students to come to the United Kingdom on short educational visits. [HL2109]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The student visa system makes provision for overseas students to undertake a medical elective programme in the UK. Whether a student visitor visa or a tier 4 visa is the appropriate route is dependent on the activities the student will undertake as part of the programme. Home Office officials are already discussing this matter with the Medical Schools Council and others.

Welfare: Access to Work*Question*

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will place a direct link to the Access to Work website on the Directgov website front page, instead of the current indirect link under the heading "Disabled People". [HL2125]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): From this October, the Directgov website will be replaced by GOV.UK. GOV.UK will be the new home for government services and information online, including access to work. It has been built by the Government Digital Service, which is part of the Cabinet Office.

GOV.UK has been built to make it simpler, clearer and faster for people to find what they need from government. Once GOV.UK is launched on 17 October, the existing Directgov website will no longer be used.

In preparation for the launch of GOV.UK, no further changes can be made to the Directgov website

from 1 October. As the new improved GOV.UK will be coming soon, the request is being sent for consideration to the GOV.UK team.

Welfare: Social Fund*Question*

Asked by Lord Beecham

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current estimate of the number of claims that will be made for Social Fund loans or grants by residents of Newcastle upon Tyne (1) in the current financial year and (2) in the 2013-14 financial year. [HL2115]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The department does not produce forecasts on the estimated number of Social Fund loan or grant applications at a local authority level, so the figures requested cannot be provided for 2012-13 or 2013-14.

Welfare: Work Capability Assessments*Questions*

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of face-to-face assessments conducted by Atos Healthcare have been overturned by Department for Work and Pensions decision makers (1) since the work capability assessment began and (2) since June 2011. [HL2127]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The information requested on face-to-face assessments as part of the work capability assessment (WCA) process is not available.

Asked by Baroness Thomas of Winchester

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are monitoring the rollout throughout the country of the reforms of the work capability assessment recommended by Professor Harrington in his annual *Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment*. [HL2128]

Lord Freud: Following the implementation of the recommendations in Professor Harrington's first review of the work capability assessment, a programme of monitoring and evaluation was put in place to capture the impacts of the changes. Professor Harrington endorsed this in his second review, advocating the ongoing monitoring of all his year one recommendations.

In response, DWP is using a wide range of indices, management information and further customer insight to monitor all aspects of the changes introduced.

DWP has planned a series of evaluation reports, which will capture further customer insight along with management information. These findings will be used

to identify further improvements and will also feed into Professor Harrington's third review of the work capability assessment (WCA).

Yemen: Food Security

Question

Asked by The Lord Bishop of Derby

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the government of Yemen's 2010 National Food Security Strategy as a framework for the government of Yemen, the humanitarian community and international donors to tackle food insecurity in Yemen. [HL2112]

Baroness Northover: The 2010 National Food Security Strategy is an important foundation for an updated response to food insecurity in Yemen. The key challenge has been implementation of the Strategy, including the establishment of the planned National Food Security Secretariat which has been repeatedly delayed.

The UK is committed to working with the Government of Yemen, donors and the humanitarian community to address food insecurity, and has committed to reaching 300,000 people with emergency food assistance and livelihood support, and to reaching 1.65 million women and children with nutrition interventions over the next three years. We also welcome the steps being taken to improve coordination among those providing food assistance in Yemen. In addition, DfID will continue to support implementation of an updated Food Security Strategy to address this pressing development challenge in Yemen.

Statements received between Wednesday 25 July and Monday 3 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Armed Forces: Pay Review	<i>Col. No.</i> 69	Office of the Public Guardian: A Consultation.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 70
Freedom of Information Veto.....	69	Social Security Schemes.....	71

Statements received between Monday 3 September and Monday 10 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Arms Trade Treaty	<i>Col. No.</i> 72	Health: Suicide Prevention	<i>Col. No.</i> 88
Aviation	73	Housing and Growth	89
Bilateral Loan to Ireland	75	Julian Assange Extradition Proceedings	95
Brownfield Allowance.....	76	Nursery Milk Consultation.....	97
Correction to Parliamentary Question 90451	77	Pensions: Automatic Enrolment Thresholds	98
Dairy Industry.....	77	Personal Independence Payment.....	98
Damages Act 1996: Discount Rate	108	Police Pension Scheme.....	99
DCLG: Summer Recess Work	79	Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005.....	102
Family Courts: Expert Evidence	85	Rail Franchising	102
Fluoridation	85	Reducing Audit Requirements	103
Framework Agreement for Technical Support.....	86	Regional Growth Fund.....	104
Hargeisa British Office.....	87	Rwanda.....	106
Health: Education, Training and Workforce Planning	88	Special Educational Needs Reform.....	106
		Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures	107

Statements received between Monday 10 September and Monday 17 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Afghanistan	<i>Col. No.</i> 126	Boundary Commission for Wales.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 111
Armed Forces: Chief Coroner.....	109	Cold Weather Payment Scheme 2012-13	112
Armed Forces: Invincible Class Carriers	109	Crime: Surveillance Cameras	112
Armed Forces: Reserve Forces	110	Disability: Fulfilling Potential.....	114
Assets of Community Value Regulations 2012	110	Employment Law.....	115
Audit Exemptions	111	Estate Agency	117
		Fuel	120

Health: Alcohol Strategy	<i>Col. No.</i> 120	Terrorism Act 2000: Schedule 7	<i>Col. No.</i> 124
Judiciary: Judicial Diversity Taskforce.....	121	Transport: Bus Subsidy.....	123
Local Enterprise Partnerships.....	122	Transport: Railway Stations.....	123
		Work Capability Assessment: Cancer Treatment.....	125

Statements received between Monday 17 September and Monday 24 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Committee on Standards in Public Life	<i>Col. No.</i> 127	Local Statistics.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 134
Communities and Local Government: Research	127	Olympic Truce	135
Elections: Police and Crime Commissioners	130	Planning: Penfold Review	137
EU: Proceeds of Crime	131	Railways: High Speed Rail.....	138
European Stability Mechanism	131	Schools: Exam Reform	139
Fuel Poverty.....	132	Transport: Devolving Local Major Schemes.....	141
Legal Aid.....	133	Zimbabwe	143

Answers received between Wednesday 25 July and Monday 30 July 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

Abortion.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 175	Crime: Gun Grime.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 187
Air Quality.....	175	Cuerden Valley Park Trust	188
Armed Forces: Commonwealth Citizens.....	175	Education: Languages.....	189
Asylum Seekers.....	176	Egypt	189
Asylum Seekers: Children	179	Embryology	190
Atos Healthcare.....	179	Employment Tribunals.....	191
Aviation: Passenger Duty.....	180	EU: Association Agreements	191
Bahrain.....	180	Extradition: Gary McKinnon	191
Bankruptcy.....	182	Gaza	192
Barbara Hofschroer	183	Government Departments: Apprentices.....	194
Billy Rautenbach	183	Government Departments: Public Consultations.....	194
British Citizenship	184	Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002	195
Burma.....	184	Health: Contraceptive Services	197
Burma and Thailand.....	185	Health: Multiple Sclerosis.....	197
Care Homes: Children	185	Health: Neuromuscular Disease.....	198
Children: Poverty	186	Health: Orthopaedics.....	198
China	186	Health: PDE5 Inhibitors.....	198
Courts: Vulnerable Defendants.....	187	Health: Smallpox Vaccine.....	199

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Health: Training and Education	200	NATO	209
House of Lords: Legislation	200	Overseas Aid	211
Housing	201	Pakistan	211
Human Trafficking and Servitude	201	Police	212
Immigration	202	Police: Complaints	213
Immigration: Children	203	Police: Stations	214
Immigration: Criminal Records	203	Public Order Act 1986	214
Immigration: Domestic Violence	204	Raed Salah	215
Iran	204	Riots	215
Israel	205	Roads: Street Names and Numbers	216
Israel and Palestine: West Bank and East Jerusalem	206	Secret Intelligence Service	216
Lebanon	207	Sudan and South Sudan	216
Middle East and North Africa: Discrimination against Women	207	Terrorism: Detainees	217
National Crime Agency	208	Universal Credit	218
		Visas	218
		Visas: Fishing Fleets	219

Answers received between Wednesday 25 July and Monday 30 July 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL959]	194	[HL1647]	180
[HL1106]	189	[HL1648]	180
[HL1285]	185	[HL1649]	181
[HL1408]	216	[HL1651]	189
[HL1576]	200	[HL1652]	190
[HL1587]	201	[HL1659]	216
[HL1594]	209	[HL1664]	199
[HL1595]	210	[HL1672]	192
[HL1596]	210	[HL1673]	192
[HL1597]	210	[HL1674]	204
[HL1598]	210	[HL1679]	211
[HL1625]	175	[HL1680]	186
[HL1629]	212	[HL1687]	195
[HL1630]	212	[HL1688]	195
[HL1638]	183	[HL1689]	196
[HL1639]	182	[HL1690]	196
[HL1640]	191	[HL1693]	187
[HL1641]	191	[HL1703]	218

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL1707]	213	[HL1826]	215
[HL1708]	217	[HL1830]	180
[HL1711]	197	[HL1836]	207
[HL1715]	208	[HL1837]	184
[HL1716]	209	[HL1844]	176
[HL1717]	209	[HL1845]	177
[HL1726]	211	[HL1846]	178
[HL1727]	212	[HL1847]	178
[HL1732]	194	[HL1848]	178
[HL1733]	214	[HL1849]	219
[HL1734]	214	[HL1851]	183
[HL1735]	214	[HL1858]	204
[HL1736]	214	[HL1861]	214
[HL1737]	214	[HL1862]	214
[HL1740]	218	[HL1863]	213
[HL1746]	175	[HL1867]	187
[HL1761]	201	[HL1874]	198
[HL1763]	191	[HL1892]	216
[HL1769]	193	[HL1893]	203
[HL1773]	218	[HL1894]	179
[HL1782]	198	[HL1895]	179
[HL1783]	199	[HL1896]	202
[HL1784]	199	[HL1897]	184
[HL1785]	197	[HL1905]	179
[HL1786]	197	[HL1909]	191
[HL1794]	198	[HL1910]	206
[HL1800]	200	[HL1911]	205
[HL1810]	185	[HL1912]	187
[HL1811]	184	[HL1923]	175
[HL1812]	185	[HL1924]	193
[HL1815]	207	[HL1939]	205
[HL1816]	202	[HL1940]	206
[HL1817]	203	[HL1960]	215
[HL1819]	188	[HL2005]	181
[HL1822]	219	[HL2006]	181
[HL1823]	190	[HL2007]	182
[HL1824]	190	[HL2009]	182
[HL1825]	215		

Answers received between Monday 30 July and Monday 6 August 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Abortion.....	219	Government Departments: Cars	248
Armed Forces: Aircraft.....	220	Government Departments: Overseas Offices.....	250
Armed Forces: Aircrew	221	Government Departments: Parliamentary Units	250
Atos Healthcare.....	221	Government Departments: Policy.....	250
Broadband: 4G Mobile.....	222	Government Departments: Staff.....	251
Broadcasting: Digital Switchover.....	222	Government: Official Visits.....	252
Burma.....	222	Health: Allergies	253
Children: International Law and Rights	224	Health and Social Care Act 2012	252
Children: Looked-after Children	224	Health and Social Care: Northern Ireland	253
Children: Offences against Children.....	232	Health: Defibrillators.....	254
China	233	Health: HIV/AIDS	254
Cities: Economic Development.....	235	Health: Musculoskeletal Conditions	254
Commonwealth	235	Health: Pre-natal Diagnostic Tests.....	255
Crime: Burglary	236	Health: Rheumatoid Arthritis.....	255
Crime: Drugs and Alcohol.....	237	Healthcare: Costs.....	256
Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme	237	HMS “Victory”	258
Cuba	237	Homosexuality.....	258
Cybercrime	238	Horses.....	259
Democratic Republic of Congo	238	House of Lords: Apprentices	260
Diego Garcia	239	House of Lords: Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint	260
Drugs.....	240	House of Lords: Members’ Surveys.....	260
Education: Special Educational Needs and Disability	240	Houses of Parliament: Sitting Days	261
Embryology	241	Houses of Parliament: Ticket Sales.....	262
Employment: Youth Contract.....	242	Houses of Parliament: Ticketmaster	262
Energy: Electricity	242	Human Trafficking	262
Energy: Light Bulbs	244	Immigration.....	263
Energy: Nuclear Power	244	Internet: Domain Names	264
Energy: Wave and Tidal Power	245	Isle of Sark	264
EU: External Action Service.....	245	Israel.....	264
First-tier Social Security and Child Support Tribunals	246	Israel and Palestine: West Bank	266
Flags: Union Flag	246	Legal Aid.....	267
Food: Security	247	Mali.....	267
Forced Marriage	247	Migrant Workers: Bulgarians and Romanians	267
G8.....	248	National Wildlife Crime Unit	268

NHS: Primary Care Trusts.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 269	Republic of Ireland: Financial Support	<i>Col. No.</i> 281
Nigeria.....	270	Roads: Traffic Offences	282
North Africa: Landmines	270	Rwanda.....	283
Northern Ireland Office: Staff.....	270	Social Media.....	287
Overseas Aid.....	271	South Sudan	288
Pakistan.....	279	Sudan.....	290
Police: Medals.....	280	Sudan and South Sudan	292
Private Sector: Cash Resources	280	Taxation: Income Tax	295
Railways: Level Crossings	281	Trees: Ivy	295
		UK Border Agency.....	296

Answers received between Monday 30 July and Monday 6 August 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

[HL1428].....	<i>Col. No.</i> 224	[HL1814].....	<i>Col. No.</i> 223
[HL1531].....	270	[HL1818].....	262
[HL1631].....	250	[HL1850].....	252
[HL1642].....	296	[HL1852].....	271
[HL1671].....	290	[HL1853].....	271
[HL1696].....	246	[HL1854].....	292
[HL1702].....	251	[HL1856].....	267
[HL1713].....	280	[HL1857].....	240
[HL1722].....	258	[HL1859].....	295
[HL1730].....	224	[HL1869].....	264
[HL1741].....	282	[HL1875].....	223
[HL1752].....	263	[HL1876].....	223
[HL1756].....	242	[HL1877].....	266
[HL1758].....	233	[HL1882].....	267
[HL1766].....	248	[HL1885].....	269
[HL1776].....	222	[HL1886].....	269
[HL1777].....	222	[HL1888].....	269
[HL1804].....	288	[HL1889].....	269
[HL1805].....	288	[HL1890].....	252
[HL1806].....	289	[HL1898].....	255
[HL1807].....	290	[HL1899].....	241
[HL1808].....	291	[HL1900].....	241
[HL1809].....	291	[HL1901].....	219
[HL1813].....	222	[HL1902].....	220

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL1903]	220	[HL1980]	251
[HL1904]	246	[HL1981]	251
[HL1906]	246	[HL1982]	251
[HL1908]	221	[HL1983]	279
[HL1916]	253	[HL1984]	254
[HL1917]	272	[HL1986]	258
[HL1918]	272	[HL1990]	238
[HL1919]	272	[HL1993]	247
[HL1920]	273	[HL1994]	262
[HL1921]	283	[HL1995]	248
[HL1925]	264	[HL1996]	294
[HL1926]	260	[HL1997]	289
[HL1927]	255	[HL1998]	290
[HL1928]	255	[HL1999]	273
[HL1929]	256	[HL2000]	286
[HL1930]	254	[HL2002]	275
[HL1931]	295	[HL2003]	245
[HL1938]	265	[HL2013]	287
[HL1951]	293	[HL2014]	267
[HL1952]	235	[HL2015]	256
[HL1953]	238	[HL2017]	270
[HL1954]	239	[HL2020]	244
[HL1955]	283	[HL2021]	244
[HL1956]	292	[HL2023]	280
[HL1957]	252	[HL2025]	260
[HL1958]	261	[HL2028]	221
[HL1962]	262	[HL2029]	245
[HL1969]	266	[HL2033]	294
[HL1970]	239	[HL2034]	270
[HL1971]	235	[HL2038]	224
[HL1972]	284	[HL2045]	250
[HL1973]	284	[HL2046]	277
[HL1974]	285	[HL2047]	278
[HL1975]	285	[HL2048]	278
[HL1976]	285	[HL2049]	279
[HL1977]	286	[HL2050]	279
[HL1978]	220	[HL2051]	286
[HL1979]	250	[HL2052]	239

[HL2053]	<i>Col. No.</i> 287	[HL2072]	<i>Col. No.</i> 247
[HL2054]	264	[HL2073]	240
[HL2057]	244	[HL2074]	240
[HL2058]	261	[HL2075]	240
[HL2059]	236	[HL2076]	237
[HL2060]	282	[HL2077]	247
[HL2062]	281	[HL2078]	237
[HL2063]	237	[HL2086]	268
[HL2064]	232	[HL2087]	268
[HL2067]	236	[HL2088]	268
[HL2068]	254	[HL2089]	259
[HL2069]	254	[HL2091]	242
[HL2070]	260	[HL2092]	253
		[HL2093]	253

Answers received between Monday 6 August and Monday 13 August 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

Atos Healthcare	<i>Col. No.</i> 296	Housing: Insurance	<i>Col. No.</i> 305
Benefits	296	Internet: 4G Spectrum	306
BFI National Archives	300	Internet: Broadband	306
Civil Service: Staff	300	National Insurance	306
Climate Change	302	Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012	307
Council Tax	302	Pensions	308
Education: 16-19 Bursary	303	Private Sector: Investment	310
Employment: Youth Contract	303	Schools: Performance	312
Freedom of Information	304	Taxation: Alcohol	312
Higher Education: Loans	305	Taxation: Cash-in-hand Payments	312
House of Lords: Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint	305	Taxation: VAT	313
		Telecommunications: Television Signals	313

Answers received between Monday 6 August and Monday 13 August 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

[HL1657]	<i>Col. No.</i> 303	[HL1878]	<i>Col. No.</i> 308
[HL1774]	304	[HL1883]	312
[HL1775]	304	[HL1891]	303
[HL1778]	313	[HL1907]	296
[HL1839]	305	[HL1922]	304

[HL1933]	<i>Col. No.</i> 308	[HL2012]	<i>Col. No.</i> 301
[HL1934]	309	[HL2024]	310
[HL1935]	296	[HL2026]	312
[HL1936]	298	[HL2027]	310
[HL1937]	299	[HL2055]	313
[HL1943]	305	[HL2061]	312
[HL1950]	307	[HL2071]	305
[HL1959]	302	[HL2079]	302
[HL1961]	303	[HL2080]	306
[HL2010]	300	[HL2081]	306
[HL2011]	300	[HL2083]	300
		[HL2084]	306

Answers received between Monday 13 August and Monday 20 August 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

Africa: Franco-British Co-operation.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 314	Government Departments: Staff.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 319
Burma.....	315	Israel.....	319
Cabinet Office: Correspondence	316	National Policing Improvement Agency	319
China	317	Nigeria.....	320
Civil Service: Redundancy	317	Police: Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers	320
Government Departments: Buildings.....	318	Registration of Deaths.....	321
Government Departments: Reorganisation.....	319		

Answers received between Monday 13 August and Monday 20 August 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

[HL1614]	<i>Col. No.</i> 317	[HL1964]	<i>Col. No.</i> 319
[HL1644]	321	[HL1965]	318
[HL1645]	322	[HL1966]	319
[HL1855]	314	[HL2035]	320
[HL1860]	320	[HL2036]	315
[HL1913]	317	[HL2037]	315
[HL1914]	319	[HL2065]	315
[HL1932]	318	[HL2066]	316
[HL1963]	318	[HL2085]	320

Answers received between Monday 20 August and Tuesday 28 August 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Broadband: 4G Mobile.....	323	Schools: Academies	327
Children: Northern Ireland and England.....	323	Schools: Creationism	328
EU: Media	323	Schools: Free Meals	329
Higher Education: 16-19 Year-olds.....	324	Schools: Free Schools	330
Holocaust	326	Schools: Funding	330
Ofsted	326	Teachers: Overseas-trained	330

Answers received between Monday 20 August and Tuesday 28 August 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL1604]	329	[HL1884]	327
[HL1724]	328	[HL1915]	323
[HL1779]	323	[HL1941]	324
[HL1788]	326	[HL1942]	324
[HL1832]	326	[HL1985]	323
[HL1833]	330	[HL2030]	329
[HL1835]	330	[HL2031]	330
[HL1870]	329	[HL2032]	329

Answers received between Tuesday 28 August and Monday 3 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Electoral Registration.....	331	Private Sector: Cash Resources	332
Government Departments: Ministerial Code.....	332		

Answers received between Tuesday 28 August and Monday 3 September 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL2023]	332	[HL2041]	331
[HL2039]	332		
[HL2040]	331	[HL2042]	332

Answers received between Monday 3 September and Monday 10 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Civil Service: Training.....	333	Cybercrime	334

Economy: Balance of Payments.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 334	Pensions.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 336
Government Departments: Private Contractors.....	335		

Answers received between Monday 3 September and Monday 10 September 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

[HL1751]	<i>Col. No.</i> 335	[HL2016]	<i>Col. No.</i> 336
[HL1987]	334	[HL2018]	336
[HL1988]	334	[HL2022]	334
[HL1989]	334	[HL2056]	333

Answers received between Monday 10 September and Monday 17 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

Bahrain.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 336	Office of Fair Trading: Market Study into Dentistry	<i>Col. No.</i> 339
Health: Cigarettes	337	Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2012: Security ...	339
House of Lords: Leader's Group on Working Practices ..	337	Population Growth	340
Liikanen High-level Expert Group.....	338	Rwanda: UN Sanctions Group of Experts Report	340
Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint: Questions	338		
Nuclear Fuel Banks	338		

Answers received between Monday 10 September and Monday 17 September 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

[HL1637]	<i>Col. No.</i> 339	[HL2196]	<i>Col. No.</i> 338
[HL2008]	340	[HL2202]	336
[HL2149]	337	[HL2208]	338
[HL2150]	339	[HL2210]	337
[HL2155]	340	[HL2228]	338

Answers received between Monday 17 September and Monday 24 September 2012

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

Admiralty Arch.....	<i>Col. No.</i> 341	Batumi	<i>Col. No.</i> 343
Armed Forces: Defence Medical Services	341	Belize	344
Armed Forces: Interpreters.....	342	Corporation of Trinity House.....	344
Armed Forces: Mail to Afghanistan	342	Crime and Courts Bill.....	344
Audit Commission: Staff.....	343	Dentistry: Training	345

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
Departmental Replies: Notepaper.....	346	Iraq: Chilcot Inquiry.....	372
DfID: Operational Plans.....	346	Isles of Scilly: Helicopter Services.....	373
DfID: Reserves	346	Israel and Palestine	373
DfID: Spending	347	Israel and Palestine: Israeli Settlers.....	375
Education: Student Loans	354	Legal Services: Triennial Review	375
Elections: Malpractice	355	Local Government: Local Audit Bill.....	375
Elections: Postal Votes	355	Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2012: Security ...	377
Electoral Registration	356	Overseas Territories	378
Electoral Registration and Administration Bill.....	356	Pensions: British Rail.....	379
EU: VAT	358	Population Growth	380
European Convention on Human Rights: Russia.....	357	Post Office: Credit Union Services	380
European Investment Bank.....	357	Post Office: DVLA Contract.....	381
Finance: Kay Review	358	Post Office: Government Contracts	381
Financial Stability: Algorithmic Trading	359	Prisons: Remand.....	381
Financial Stability: Quantitative Easing.....	359	Reemploy	382
Fire and Rescue Services.....	360	Royal Mail: Postage Stamps.....	383
Food: Free Food Banks	362	Rwanda.....	384
Georgia.....	362	Security: G4S.....	385
Government: Official Visits.....	362	South Sudan	385
Health: Babies.....	364	Transport: A371 Road Closure	386
Health: Cervical Cancer.....	365	Transport: Flexibility Scheme	386
Health: Circumcision	366	Transport: Rail Franchises.....	386
Health: Clinical Commissioning Groups	366	Transport: Railway Works	387
Health: Foundation Trusts.....	367	Transport: Satellite Navigation	387
Health: Medical Students	367	Turkey: Minorities	387
Health: NHS.....	368	Valuation Office: Appeals	388
Health: Secondary Care Clinicians	369	Visas: Medical Students	389
HMRC.....	370	Welfare: Access to Work	389
Immigration: Support Applications	370	Welfare: Social Fund.....	390
International Passenger Surveys	371	Welfare: Work Capability Assessments	390
		Yemen: Food Security.....	391

Answers received between Monday 17 September and Monday 24 September 2012

NUMERICAL INDEX TO WRITTEN ANSWERS

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL1611]	377	[HL1820]	341
[HL1612]	377	[HL1864]	385
[HL1753]	380	[HL1880]	362

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL2042]	356	[HL2145]	369
[HL2043]	355	[HL2146]	366
[HL2044]	355	[HL2147]	366
[HL2094]	371	[HL2148]	369
[HL2095]	371	[HL2151]	366
[HL2096]	355	[HL2153]	370
[HL2097]	356	[HL2154]	365
[HL2098]	357	[HL2156]	344
[HL2103]	364	[HL2157]	344
[HL2104]	367	[HL2158]	344
[HL2105]	367	[HL2159]	345
[HL2106]	367	[HL2160]	381
[HL2107]	389	[HL2161]	381
[HL2108]	389	[HL2162]	381
[HL2109]	389	[HL2163]	380
[HL2110]	373	[HL2164]	388
[HL2112]	391	[HL2165]	388
[HL2113]	381	[HL2166]	362
[HL2115]	390	[HL2167]	364
[HL2116]	367	[HL2168]	364
[HL2117]	367	[HL2169]	364
[HL2120]	357	[HL2170]	368
[HL2121]	383	[HL2171]	368
[HL2122]	383	[HL2172]	373
[HL2123]	384	[HL2173]	375
[HL2124]	346	[HL2174]	343
[HL2125]	389	[HL2175]	376
[HL2127]	390	[HL2177]	370
[HL2128]	390	[HL2178]	345
[HL2134]	386	[HL2179]	345
[HL2135]	344	[HL2180]	358
[HL2136]	387	[HL2181]	358
[HL2137]	386	[HL2183]	342
[HL2138]	378	[HL2184]	341
[HL2141]	382	[HL2185]	354
[HL2142]	382	[HL2186]	354
[HL2143]	382	[HL2187]	375
[HL2144]	382	[HL2188]	358

	<i>Col. No.</i>		<i>Col. No.</i>
[HL2189]	358	[HL2218]	375
[HL2190]	359	[HL2219]	374
[HL2197]	386	[HL2220]	385
[HL2198]	387	[HL2221]	346
[HL2199]	387	[HL2222]	347
[HL2200]	388	[HL2223]	347
[HL2201]	388	[HL2224]	346
[HL2203]	360	[HL2225]	384
[HL2204]	361	[HL2226]	379
[HL2205]	361	[HL2227]	342
[HL2206]	361	[HL2229]	360
[HL2207]	362	[HL2231]	359
[HL2209]	372	[HL2232]	359
[HL2212]	357	[HL2233]	344
[HL2214]	374	[HL2239]	362
		[HL2240]	343

CONTENTS

Monday 24 September 2012

Written Statements.....	WS 69
Written Answers.....	WA 175
