



This report shows written answers provided on 26 September 2014 and the information is correct at the time of publication (6:00p.m., 26 September 2014). For the latest information on written questions and answers, including ministerial corrections, please visit <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/>.

CONTENTS

ANSWERS	3	■ Families	14
TREASURY	3	■ Glyndwr University	14
■ Barclays	3	■ Immigrants: Detainees	15
■ Business: Scotland	5	■ Offences against Children	15
■ Credit Cards: Fees and Charges	5	■ Offences against Children: Rotherham	16
■ Domestic Visits	6	■ Organised Crime: EU Law	17
■ Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation	6	■ Passports	17
■ Housing: Warrington	7	■ Passports: Scotland	18
■ Landsbanki	7	■ Police: Travellers	18
■ Tobacco: Smuggling	7	■ Stansted Airport	18
COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	8	■ Terrorism	18
■ Coalfields Regeneration Trust	8	■ Travellers: Offences against Children	19
■ Electronic Government	9	JUSTICE	19
■ Enterprise Zones	9	■ Belmarsh Prison	19
■ Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships	10	■ Domestic Visits	19
EDUCATION	11	■ Drugs: Convictions	20
■ Castes: Discrimination	11	■ Prisoners' Release	20
■ Foster Care	11	■ Probation	21
■ Special Educational Needs	12	■ Victim Personal Statement Scheme	21
HOME OFFICE	13	LEADER OF THE HOUSE	22
■ Arrest Warrants	13	■ Families	22
■ Domestic Violence	13	NORTHERN IRELAND	22

■ Motor Vehicles: Insurance	22	WORK AND PENSIONS	23
WALES	23	■ National Insurance	
■ Conditions of Employment	23	Contributions: Northern Ireland	23
■ Official Engagements	23	■ Offshore Industry	24

Notes:

Questions marked thus [R] indicate that a relevant interest has been declared.

Questions with identification numbers of 900000 or greater indicate that the question was originally tabled as an oral question and has since been unstarred.

ANSWERS**TREASURY**

■ Barclays

Mr David Amess: [\[209063\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Funding for Lending Scheme on the lending market in (a) Southend and (b) England and Wales; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [\[209064\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what contribution has been made by Barclays Bank to the Funding for Lending Scheme; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [\[209065\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he had with Barclays Bank on the Funding for Lending Scheme; if he will place in the Library all material provided by (a) his Department to Barclays Bank and (b) Barclays Bank to his Department on that scheme; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

The Funding for Lending Scheme (FLS) provides funding to banks and building societies for an extended period, with both the price and quantity of funding provided linked to their lending performance. There is no mechanical link between funding drawn from the scheme and lending activity in any particular nation, region or city. The decision on where, how much and to whom to lend remains a commercial decision for the bank or building society concerned. More generally, the FLS has been successful in helping to reduce bank funding costs to historic lows; and in providing strong incentives for participants to make loans cheaper and more easily available.

Ministers meet with various stakeholders to discuss a broad range of issues. It is not appropriate to reveal the detail of these discussions or to release any information exchanged which may pertain to the FLS. Barclays participated in the first phase of the FLS, which ran until January 2014, but are not participating in the Scheme's extension. Barclays' FLS data is publically available on the Bank of England's website: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/Pages/FLS/default.aspx>

Mr David Amess: [\[209066\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many treat-official letters were dealt with by his Department about Barclays Bank in each month since January 2011; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

The information requested could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost

Mr David Amess: [209067]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many letters were sent to his Department by (a) hon. Members and (b) Members of the House of Lords about Barclays Bank, in each month since January 2011; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

The information requested could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost

Mr David Amess: [209068]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many meetings (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officials in his Department have had with Barclays Bank in 2014 to date; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [209069]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last met the Chief Executive of Barclays Bank; what was discussed at that meeting; where that meeting took place; who was present at that meeting; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [209070]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when (a) he, (b) Ministers in his Department and (c) officials in his Department next plan to meet (i) the Chairman and (ii) Chief Executive of Barclays Bank; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [209073]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with the Governor of the Bank of England on Barclays Bank; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [209074]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Chief Executive and (b) Chairman of Barclays Bank about the role played by that bank in supporting businesses with five or fewer staff; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors 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. However, a list of meetings with external stakeholders is published on the Treasury website. This list can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Mr David Amess: [209071]

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what (a) goods and (b) services are provided by Barclays Bank to his Department; what the purpose of each such good or service is; how much his Department paid for each such good or service; and if he will make a statement.

Mr David Amess: [\[209072\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what contracts his Department has signed with Barclays Bank in each month since July 2010; what each such contract is for; how much his Department paid for each such contract; how many such contracts (a) have expired, (b) have been terminated and (c) are current; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

Since January 2011, central Government Departments have been required to publish on Contracts Finder information on the tenders issued and contracts they award with a value over £10,000

www.gov.uk/contracts-finder

In addition, Departments including HM Treasury routinely publish details of transactions over £25,000 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/25000-spend>

■ Business: Scotland

Lindsay Roy: [\[208129\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent fiscal steps he has taken to support small and micro-sized businesses in Scotland.

Mr David Gauke:

The government is committed to supporting small businesses across the UK, and has recently taken a number of measures to support Scotland's 326,000 SMEs.

In February 2014, the Start Up Loans programme went live in Scotland, and has already supported 500 Scottish entrepreneurs to start their own business with £1.6m of loans.

In April 2014, the Government launched the Employment Allowance to allow businesses and charities throughout the UK to deduct up to £2,000 off their employer National Insurance contributions (NICs) bill each year. By June 2014, 57,000 Scottish SMEs had benefitted from this scheme. Also in April 2014, the government increased the rate of the credit payable to loss-making SMEs investing in research and development from 11% to 14.5% and doubled the Annual Investment Allowance to £500,000 until 2016 to support business investment.

The Government has also launched new tax reliefs for the production of high-end television, animation, video games and theatre and introduced the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme to support small early stage companies seeking equity investment.

■ Credit Cards: Fees and Charges

Jim Shannon: [\[208770\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to tackle excess credit card charging; and if he will make a statement.

Andrea Leadsom:

The Government has fundamentally reformed regulation of the consumer credit market, including credit cards. Consumer credit regulation transferred from the Office of Fair

Trading (OFT) to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on 1 April 2014, this new, more robust regulatory system provides far stronger consumer protections and will help deliver the Government's vision for a well-functioning and sustainable credit market.

The Government has ensured that the FCA has robust powers to curb credit fees and charges. The FCA has also committed to undertake a thorough review of the credit card market to assess whether competition is effective and whether consumers have access to credit cards that are affordable and deliver value for money. This review is due to start shortly.

■ Domestic Visits

Sheila Gilmore: [\[208261\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 22 July 2014, Official Report, column 1094W, on domestic visits, what domestic visits he has made since January 2013; and what the purpose of each such visit was.

Andrea Leadsom:

I refer the hon. Member to the Answer given on 22 July 2014, column reference 1094W.

■ Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Stephen Metcalfe: [\[208879\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he last reviewed the amount of compensation made available to Equitable Life policyholders and annuitants through the Equitable Life Payment Scheme.

Stephen Metcalfe: [\[208880\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, under what circumstances he would review the amount of compensation made available to Equitable Life policyholders through the Equitable Life Payment Scheme.

Andrea Leadsom:

The 2010 Spending Review allocated up to £1.5 billion to the Equitable Life Payment Scheme. The Government has no plans to review the level of funding available to the Payment Scheme.

Stephen Metcalfe: [\[208882\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what criteria he used to calculate the amount of compensation issued to Equitable Life policyholders through the Equitable Life Payment Scheme.

Andrea Leadsom:

In her report the Parliamentary Ombudsman was clear that the state of the public purse should be taken into account when deciding the level of funding available. The Government decided that £1.5 billion was an appropriate level of funding for the Equitable Life Payment Scheme.

■ Housing: Warrington

Helen Jones: [\[208073\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the ratio of average house prices to average wages was in (a) Warrington and (b) Warrington North constituency in each year since 2008.

Andrea Leadsom:

There are no official statistics on the ratio of average house prices to average wages.

Regional house price information is available through the Land Registry and regional earnings data is available through the Office for National Statistics' NOMIS service.

■ Landsbanki

Stephen Metcalfe: [\[208878\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, if HM Treasury will limit the amount of compensation paid to UK Icesave customers.

Andrea Leadsom:

At the time of the collapse of Landsbanki and its UK branch, Icesave, customer deposits amounted to £4.5bn. Depositors were fully compensated at the time of the collapse by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) and the Government. In return, the FSCS became a priority creditor in the Landsbanki estate, which is currently being wound down.

■ Tobacco: Smuggling

Catherine McKinnell: [\[208670\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much revenue loss from tobacco smuggling has been prevented as a result of increasing assessments and civil penalties in each year since 2010-11; and what operational targets were set for this activity in each of those years.

Catherine McKinnell: [\[208671\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much revenue loss has been prevented as a result of targeting and disrupting criminal gangs behind tobacco fraud; and what operational targets were set for this activity in each year since 2010-11.

Catherine McKinnell: [\[208672\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what operational targets were set for the seizure of illicit (a) cigarettes and (b) hand-rolling tobacco in each year since 2010-11; and whether those targets were met in each of those years.

Catherine McKinnell: [\[208673\]](#)

To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what operational targets were set for reducing the supply of genuine tobacco products for fraud in each year since 2010-11; and whether those targets were met in each of those years.

Priti Patel:

Information on HMRC's performance against operational targets was published in June 2013 in the NAO Report 'Progress in tackling tobacco smuggling'

<http://www.nao.org.uk/report/progress-in-tackling-tobacco-smuggling/>

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Jon Trickett: [205109]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much funding has been awarded to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust in each year since 2010.

Jon Trickett: [205254]

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if his Department will make an assessment of the implications for its policies of the conclusions and recommendations of the recent report from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust entitled *The State of the Coalfields*; and whether his Department provides or plans to provide funding for the Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Penny Mordaunt:

In 2010, the previous Administration initiated a review of coalfields regeneration; this was completed in September 2010 and the Government's response was published in March 2011 – as summarised in the Written Ministerial Statement by my rt. hon. Friend, the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), on 10 March 2011, *Official Report*, Column 74WS. This outlined a four year programme to make the Trust self-financing, and a tapered level of funding. As laid out in that approach, funding to the Trust was £17.7 million in 2010-11, £16 million in 2011-12, £14 million in 2012-13, £12 million in 2013-14 and will be £10 million in 2014-15.

In line with the strategy, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust will no longer receive financial support from DCLG after March 2015, but they have been allowed to invest grant in assets, whilst still adhering to their core objectives of supporting coalfields communities to enable them to generate an income from 2015 onwards. The Trust now has a strong portfolio of investment and an opportunity to concentrate on the areas where they add value.

In addition, the Homes and Communities Agency's Coalfields Programme has invested over £660 million in coalfields project. The land assets associated with Coalfields Projects are expected to form part of the Homes and Communities Agency's upcoming programme to dispose of Public Sector Land.

DCLG's Coalfields Funds have also been investing in innovative small and medium firms in deprived former coalfields areas and will continue to do so until mid-2016, as per the June 2009 contractual agreement with the Coalfields Growth Fund partnership. As of 30 June 2014 the Funds have invested £16.9 million in total.

More broadly, the Government's approach is to provide local leaders, residents and businesses with the powers, flexibilities, options and incentives to put them in the driving seat to regenerate their area, strengthen their local economy, and improve their opportunities.

As part of its long-term economic plan to secure Britain's future, the Government has agreed a series of Growth Deals with businesses and local authorities across England which will provide support for local businesses to train young people, create thousands of new jobs, build thousands of new homes and start hundreds of infrastructure projects; including transport improvements and superfast broadband networks. There is a real opportunity for the Local Enterprise Partnerships which cover former coalfield areas to take a major role in taking forward regeneration locally.

■ Electronic Government

Chi Onwurah:

[\[208589\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what progress the Permanent Secretary of his Department has made on his objective for delivery of information and transactional services to his Department's users by taking the Digital by Default approach.

Kris Hopkins:

[holding answer 11 September 2014]: The Department is digital by default; publishing all documents online, except where there is a statutory duty to publish printed copies and when material is targeted at audiences known to have limited access to the internet, such as park home tenants.

Our transactional services are on target to reach 80% digital takeup by 2017.

85 percent of planning appeals in the calendar year to June 2014 were completed on line.

100 percent of national infrastructure planning projects in the calendar year to June 2014 were completed on line.

68 percent of planning applications through the planning portal were completed online in the calendar year to March 2014.

■ Enterprise Zones

Hilary Benn:

[\[208306\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the report by the National Audit Office, Funding and structures for local economic growth, HC 542, published on 6 December 2013, what steps he has taken to implement recommendation 22f on page 13 of the report.

Penny Mordaunt:

[holding answer 9 September 2014]: As Enterprise Zones are a long term intervention (25 years in total) and the programme is still at an early stage, an evaluation of impact at this point would be premature. This reflects the practice of the previous evaluation which was commissioned in 1995 to assess the performance of Enterprise Zones that had been designated between 1981 and 1984.

However, the Department is looking at options now for a robust evaluation in the future, taking into account recent National Audit Office work on evaluation of spatial programmes, and lessons that can be learnt from the evaluations that are underway on other local growth programmes such as the Regional Growth Fund.

Hilary Benn: [\[208307\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of new jobs that will be created by enterprise zones by 2015.

Penny Mordaunt:

[holding answer 9 September 2014]: Enterprise Zones are about delivering long term, locally-led, sustainable growth. Since they started in April 2012, they have laid down the foundations for their success and report that they have so far created over 10,000 jobs and attracted 377 businesses, bringing in £1.9 billion pounds of private sector investment.

We do not collect data on forecast job numbers by 2015, nor are we imposing Whitehall targets; the jobs to be created in each individual Enterprise Zone will reflect the type of commerce or industry supported on the sites (some sectors are more labour-intensive than others), the local priorities of the Enterprise Zone, the size and context of the zone's sites and the broader local economy.

■ Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Andrew Rosindell: [\[206993\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government has taken to implement the EU proposal to replace the royal coat of arms with the EU emblem on birth, death and marriage certificates; and if he will make a statement.

Kris Hopkins:

The Government has taken no such steps to make any change to UK public documents.

The underlying issue stems from a proposed EU regulation (2013/0119) on the use of public documents between EU Member States. The draft can be found at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0228:FIN:EN:PDF>

The UK Government has been absolutely clear that there can be no suggestion of national birth, death or marriage certificates being replaced by EU documents, or of UK emblems being replaced by EU branding on them. Further, the European Commission has stated that there is no EU legal basis to impose any such replacement.

Negotiations continue on this draft regulation. Ministers have been clear that the imposition of the EU flag is inappropriate. Indeed, following negotiations initiated by

my rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles), the UK Government last year stopped proposals from the European Commission to make it compulsory for many public bodies to fly the EU flag from their public buildings all year round, and in addition, successfully renegotiated EU law to remove the previous requirement (under 2006 EU regulation) to fly the EU flag for one week a year on Europe Day.

EDUCATION

■ Castes: Discrimination

Jeremy Corbyn: [\[209042\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will take steps to ensure that teaching and guidance is given in schools to ensure that children understand caste discrimination.

Mr Nick Gibb:

Schools are encouraged to teach their pupils about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom through the citizenship national curriculum for KS4. Pupils should also be taught about the need for mutual respect and understanding. Pupils may also be taught about diversity and equality through the non-statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) curriculum.

The Department for Education will shortly be publishing new guidance on promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils, highlighting the importance of pupils gaining knowledge and understanding of different cultures. Schools may achieve this through their whole school ethos as well as teaching of curriculum subjects.

■ Foster Care

Jim Shannon: [\[208773\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many fostered children have been separated from their siblings in each of the last five years.

Jim Shannon: [\[208774\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to reunite siblings who have been placed in separate foster homes.

Mr Edward Timpson:

The data requested is not held centrally.

The Department for Education is clear that siblings should be placed together where possible. While the data requested is not held centrally, Action for Children published research on 8 September highlighting the importance of keeping siblings together where this is in their best interests. This research can be found online at:

www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news/archive/2014/september/keeping-siblings-together

The Department is working closely with councils to help them recruit more foster carers who can meet the needs of children harder to place, such as sibling groups.

Nationally, fostering services are improving their recruitment of foster carers. In 2013 the Government announced a new package of support totalling £750,000 to help local authorities boost foster care recruitment by broadening the range of people who foster.

This funding is supporting four consortia partnerships of local authorities and independent fostering services, two of which have made increasing the number of foster carers that can care for sibling groups a priority. We plan to share the learning from the consortia in 2015.

We would also welcome bids to the Innovation Programme from local authorities who may like to test new, innovative approaches to addressing this issue.

■ Special Educational Needs

Steve McCabe: [\[208631\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance she issues to (a) maintained and (b) independent schools on recording instances where staff have verbally abused a special educational needs student.

Mr Edward Timpson:

All schools have a duty to safeguard all children, particularly those in need of additional support which includes pupils with special educational needs. In April, the Department for Education issued 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) guidance which sets out what schools and colleges must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18.[1]

KCSIE provides guidance to schools and colleges about managing allegations that a teacher or member of staff has:

1. behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
2. possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
3. behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates he or she would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children.

KCSIE makes clear the importance of recording on the personnel file of the accused: a summary of the allegation; how the allegation was followed up and resolved; any action taken and what decision was reached.

Schools are responsible for determining whether an allegation, including one that alleges that staff have verbally abused pupils, would meet any of the criteria and, where it appears to do so should discuss the matter with the Local Authority Designated Officer. In most serious cases the children's social care services and/or the police should be consulted. Local arrangements should be followed for those cases that are judged to have not met the criteria.

[1] www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education

Jim Fitzpatrick:

[\[208892\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when Ofsted will make recommendations on the role of inspections in monitoring specialist education support services for children with special educational needs.

Mr Edward Timpson:

The Department for Education asked Ofsted to carry out a study to identify best practice amongst local authorities to prepare for the special educational needs reforms in order to understand whether there is a need for an inspection framework to drive improvements. The findings from the study and the recommendations are a matter for Ofsted. We understand that Ofsted will publish its findings and recommendations from the study by the end of this year.

HOME OFFICE

■ Arrest Warrants

Sr Greg Knight:

[\[208746\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance she gives to UK police forces on using the European Arrest Warrant in respect of people against whom there is no evidence an offence has been committed under UK law; and if she will make a statement.

Karen Bradley:

Operational matters are the responsibility of the Chief Officer of the police force concerned.

■ Domestic Violence

Philip Davies:

[\[208528\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police-instigated disclosures relating to (a) women and (b) men have been made under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme in each police force since the introduction of that scheme.

Norman Baker:

The Home Office does not hold the information requested. Individual police forces are responsible for collecting information relating to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

As part of its commitment to take forward the recommendations arising from the report published in March 2014 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary "Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse", the Home Office is taking forward proposals to develop national data standards that enable consistent and comparable data on domestic abuse to be collected by the police and submitted as part of the Annual Data Return from April 2015. We also plan to evaluate by the end of the financial year how roll-out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme has been

implemented, and we will be working with the police to collect data on the number of national disclosures to support this evaluation.

In addition, the police are incorporating the Scheme into their action plans setting out how they are taking steps to improve their approach to domestic abuse.

■ Families

Lucy Powell: [\[208855\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Prime Minister's speech of 15 August 2011 calling for a family test to be applied to all domestic policy, which policies of her Department have been so assessed to date.

James Brokenshire:

On 18 August 2014 the Prime Minister announced that the family test was being formalised as part of the impact assessment for all domestic policies. From October 2014, every new domestic policy will be examined for its impact on the family.

■ Glyndwr University

Ian Lucas: [\[208877\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations about ETS tests her Department made to Glyndwr University from February to March 2014.

James Brokenshire:

The Home Office did not make any representations about ETS tests to Glyndwr University between February and March 2014 but we expect all educational establishments and providers to comply with their responsibilities and commitments as licensed sponsors and take action where we believe they are not doing so.

Ian Lucas: [\[208887\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria were applied in the decision to grant a renewal of highly trusted status immigration licence to Glyndwr University in March 2014.

James Brokenshire:

Glyndwr University's four year sponsor licence was renewed in February 2013 and their annual Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status was renewed in November 2013.

All sponsors applying for HTS status have to meet a number of mandatory, objective requirements. At the point Glyndwr University applied to renew their status this included: having a refusal rate of less than 20 %; an enrolment rate of at least 90 % and a course completion rate of at least 85%.

The full criteria for renewing Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status are set out in published guidance at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/340240/Document1_Applying_or_renewing_T4_Licence_and_HTS_01-08-14_final_.pdf

Ian Lucas:

[208888]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional information she received between March 2014 and 24 June 2014 which led to her suspending the highly trusted status immigration licence owned by the Glyndwr University on the latter date.

James Brokenshire:

Between March and June 2014 the Home Office identified a number of issues which led to the suspension of Glyndwr University's sponsor licence on 24 June.

Information was provided from ETS that a significant number of students sponsored by the University had English language test certificates that were invalid due to cheating. A subsequent audit of the University identified a number of further concerns. The University was suspended as a temporary measure to allow the Home Office to conduct further investigations into its ability to fulfil its sponsorship duties.

■ Immigrants: Detainees

Mr Andrew Smith:

[209029]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many cases detainees were not released automatically as a result of Rule 35 applications because her Department disputed medical evidence; and in how many such cases exceptional grounds were stated, by immigration removal centre, in (a) 2013 and (b) 2014 to date.

James Brokenshire:

It is not possible to provide the numbers of detainees subject to a Rule 35 report who were not released from detention due to disputed medical evidence or in how many cases exceptional grounds were stated without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

■ Offences against Children

Tim Loughton:

[209005]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment of a constabulary's child sexual exploitation action plan is involved in inspections by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.

James Brokenshire:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's current programme of National Child Protection Inspections assesses the child protection work of every police force in England and Wales and as part of these inspections, the Inspectorate reviews the relevant force documentation. This includes the force's child sexual exploitation plan.

Tim Loughton:

[209006]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what constabularies have so far been inspected by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary on the robustness of their action on child sexual exploitation.

James Brokenshire:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has so far inspected six forces as part of its rolling programme of National Child Protection Inspections. These are Norfolk Constabulary, South Yorkshire Police, West Midlands Police, Greater Manchester Police, West Yorkshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police.

Tim Loughton: [\[209007\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for the examination of the child sexual exploitation action plans of all constabularies by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.

James Brokenshire:

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is currently inspecting the child protection work (National Child Protection Inspections) of every police force in England and Wales. These inspections are unannounced and are being conducted as part of a rolling programme, with four forces inspected every quarter.

The first report, in relation to Norfolk Constabulary, was published on 29 August. The next report to be published is scheduled to be on South Yorkshire and is due to be published shortly.

■ Offences against Children: Rotherham

Steve McCabe: [\[207397\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she intends to take to implement the recommendations made in the Independent Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham from 1997 to 2013.

Norman Baker:

The failings in Rotherham exposed by this inquiry are appalling and the Coalition Government is absolutely clear that the lessons of past failures must be learned. This report was commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council in October 2013. The terms of reference state that the Council will make public their response to the report, which I understand they are now currently considering.

I visited Rotherham in early September to meet interested parties and emphasise the importance the Government attaches to this matter. The Government has announced the establishment of an independent Child Abuse Inquiry Panel to examine the way state and non-state institutions have treated child sexual exploitation. It will take full account of what happened in Rotherham and elsewhere, and will advise on any further action (which would include any legislative changes) needed to address any gaps or failings within our current child protection systems. In addition, the National Group, which I lead, will later this year be publishing an update workplan, which will take into account the events in Rotherham.

■ Organised Crime: EU Law

Jacob Rees-Mogg: [\[207070\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of whether Article 3 of Joint Action 98/700/JHA will put the UK's national systems on the relevant documents within the scope of EU law for the purposes of the human rights jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU, if the UK continues to be bound by that Joint Action from 1 December 2014.

Jacob Rees-Mogg: [\[207075\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, through what legal means Norway, Iceland and Switzerland have access to the False and Authentic Documents Online database established under Joint Action 98700/JHA.

James Brokenshire:

A full impact assessment has been conducted on Joint Action 98/700/JHA. Details of this assessment can be found in Command Paper 8897

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/326698/41670_Cm_8897_Accessible.pdf, published on 3 July 2014.

The Government has considered the potential impacts of ECJ jurisdiction very carefully. Article 72 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) makes clear that the maintenance of law and order and the safeguarding of internal security is a responsibility for Member States. Article 276 of the TFEU states that the ECJ shall have no jurisdiction to review the validity or proportionality of operations carried out by the police or other law enforcement services of a Member State, or the exercise of responsibilities incumbent upon Member States with regard to the maintenance of law and order and the safeguarding of internal security.

Given that context and the wording of Article 3 of Joint Action 98/700/JHA, the Government considers that any link between the UK's national systems with EU law is likely to be sufficiently tenuous and indirect to mean that national systems will not be within the scope of EU law for the purposes of the human rights jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU.

The participation of the Associated States in FADO is based on their participation in the Schengen acquis.

■ Passports

Andrew Rosindell: [\[207695\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent guidance she has issued to applicants for passports on the likely processing time for such applications.

James Brokenshire:

The website provides advice to applicants on the expected processing times for passport applications made in the UK and provides overseas applicants on a country-by-country basis with the minimum period it may take for their application to be processed.

■ Passports: Scotland

Pamela Nash: [\[207359\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people resident within the ML postcode area were (a) issued with passports for collection and (b) called for interviews at offices outside Scotland in each of the last four years for which information is available.

James Brokenshire:

On (a), the information is not held in the format requested and the cost of obtaining it would be disproportionate. On (b), an applicant attending an interview is provided with options on both date of interview and location.

■ Police: Travellers

Tim Loughton: [\[209000\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many traveller liaison officers are employed by each constabulary.

James Brokenshire:

The Home Office does not hold this information centrally.

■ Stansted Airport

Robert Halfon: [\[207423\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what contingency plans are in place to handle electronic failures at e-passport gates at Stansted Airport.

James Brokenshire:

Electronic failures of e-passport gates at Stansted Airport are addressed by officers at the port, who have access to twenty four hour technical support. At Stansted, each bank of 5 e-Passport gates is on a different power circuit in order to mitigate the risk of power failure affecting all 15 gates at once.

■ Terrorism

Stephen Doughty: [\[208045\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people had UK passports issued to them or renewed less than six months before they are known to have travelled to commit terrorist offences abroad in the last five years.

James Brokenshire:

Her Majesty's Passport Office does not record the travel history of people to whom UK passports are issued.

■ Travellers: Offences against Children

Tim Loughton: [\[209001\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what specific training in identifying and intervening on child sexual exploitation within the Traveller, Gypsy and Roma communities is given to police traveller liaison officers.

James Brokenshire:

The College of Policing provides a national learning programme titled 'Public Protection Level 1' which includes a topic about Child Sexual Exploitation. The target audience for this learning is: · all operational police officers and support staff · Specialist public protection officers and staff Police forces in England and Wales are required to ensure their training is aligned to the national training standards included in this learning programme.

There is no specific training on identifying and intervening on child sexual exploitation within the Traveller, Gypsy and Roma communities for Police Traveller Liaison Officers.

JUSTICE

■ Belmarsh Prison

Philip Davies: [\[208707\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the (a) age and (b) offence type of prisoners held in HMP Belmarsh who were under the age of 21 from 23 December 2013 to 9 January 2014 is.

Philip Davies: [\[208717\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) sentenced and (b) remand prisoners were held in HMP Belmarsh for the offence of criminal damage from 23 December 2013 to 9 January 2014.

Andrew Selous:

Data are held centrally on the characteristics of the prison population on the last day of each month, so figures are not available for 23 December 2013 to 9 January 2014.

Additionally, monthly and quarterly trends are typically compared using end of month and quarterly figures respectively.

■ Domestic Visits

Sheila Gilmore: [\[208682\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 19 June 2014, Official Report, column 711W, on official visits, what domestic visits he has made since January 2013; and what the purpose of each such visit was.

Andrew Selous:

The Department is not able to provide this information as it would incur disproportionate cost. The Justice Secretary has been on a significant number of

domestic visits in the 18 months since January 2013. This would require extensive diary searches and work to compile the information. The Justice Secretary and members of the Ministerial team regularly visit courts, prisons and probation trusts and other organisations relevant to the Ministry of Justice's business. The purpose of these visits is to meet frontline staff and stakeholders, discuss their work, and to inform the development of policy.

■ Drugs: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: [\[206957\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been convicted of possession of an illegal substance, by class of substance, since 2010.

Mike Penning:

The number of offenders found guilty and sentenced to immediate custody at all courts for offences of possession of a controlled drug, broken down by class of drug, in England and Wales, from 2009 to 2013, can be viewed in the table.

Attachments:

1. Offenders found guilty [Table-206957.xls]

■ Prisoners' Release

Philip Davies: [\[204718\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prisoners liable to be deported were released from prison on resettlement licence in the latest period for which figures are available.

Philip Davies: [\[204756\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of prisoners who were liable for deportation (a) applied for and (b) were refused a resettlement licence in each of the last five years.

Andrew Selous:

All foreign national offenders given custodial sentences are referred to the Home Office to consider deportation at the earliest possible opportunity.

Our policy seeks to ensure that those who will be removed from the UK are not released temporarily. On 13 August 2014 we amended the Prison Rules so that prisoners who have a Deportation Order served against them and have exhausted their rights of appeal from within the UK can no longer be moved to open conditions and will not be eligible for release on temporary licence (ROTL).

The immigration status of the foreign nationals granted temporary release and whether they were liable to be deported is not recorded centrally. Data on temporary release applications and the outcomes of such applications is not collected centrally and could not be provided except at disproportionate cost.

■ Probation

Dan Jarvis:

[208827]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what domestic violence training programmes are available for probation staff; and how many probation staff have undertaken domestic violence training in the last 12 months.

Andrew Selous:

Prior to 1 June 2014 when the National Probation Service (NPS) was set up along with 21 community rehabilitation companies (CRCs), 35 independent Probation Trusts were responsible for commissioning specialist training such as domestic violence for probation staff.

Since June 2014, a new National Probation Training team has been set up for NPS.

Currently, the National Offender Management Service is commissioning a new domestic abuse package to reflect recent changes in practice and ensure a consistent national standard of training. In the interim, the seven NPS divisions are continuing to deliver their own local domestic violence training packages.

Training is also available for probation officers to use a specific tool for assessing the risk of domestic abuse and to case manage offenders subject to domestic violence programmes.

Before June 2014 there were 35 Probation Trusts, which have now been replaced by the NPS and the CRCs. Information is not available centrally on the number of staff in the former probation trusts who have undertaken domestic violence training in the last 12 months as this was held at a local level.

■ Victim Personal Statement Scheme

Dan Jarvis:

[208826]

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the effects on Victim Impact Statements on sentencing decisions made by judges in the criminal justice system.

Mike Penning:

The Government implemented a new Victims' Code in December 2013. One of the code's key entitlements is for victims to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS), setting out the consequences of the offence on them. This gives victims a stronger voice in the criminal justice system.

We have also made a commitment that next year we will introduce a new law that will set out in statute key entitlements for victims previously set out in the Victims' Code. This will include the right to make a personal statement and ask to read it aloud in court.

In the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), victims are asked a range of questions on the VPS, which includes whether they felt their VPS was taken into account

in the criminal justice system. We will look to use this data in monitoring criminal justice agencies' compliance with their duties on the VPS, as set out in the Victims' Code.

The Government has not made an assessment of the effect the VPS scheme has had on sentencing decisions. The VPS helps the sentencing judge to consider any harm which the offence has caused when determining the seriousness of any offence and the appropriate penalty to be imposed.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

■ Families

Lucy Powell: [\[208858\]](#)

To ask the Leader of the House, with reference to the Prime Minister's speech of 15 August 2011 calling for a family test to be applied to all domestic policy, which policies of his Office have been so assessed to date.

Mr William Hague:

On 18 August 2014 the Prime Minister announced that the family test was being formalised as part of the impact assessment for all domestic policies. From October 2014, every new domestic policy will be examined for its impact on the family.

NORTHERN IRELAND

■ Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Jim Shannon: [\[208768\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what discussions she has had with Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive about measures to bring the level of car insurance premiums in Northern Ireland in line with those in the rest of the UK.

Mrs Theresa Villiers:

This issue has not been raised with me.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is currently investigating the private motor insurance market across the UK and is due to report its conclusions shortly. Early in its investigation, the CMA considered the Northern Ireland motor insurance market and did not find signs of a failure of competition specific to that market.

The CMA noted that a number of recent initiatives in Northern Ireland could have an effect on premiums, including a new arbitration procedure for smaller claims and a graduated driving licence aimed at reducing the riskiness of young drivers.

Government measures have already removed a number of unnecessary costs from the system in England and Wales, and we are implementing further reforms to tackle exaggerated whiplash claims, inducement advertising by solicitors and fraudulent insurance claims. The Government fully expects the insurance industry to continue to

meet their commitment to pass on the savings from Government reforms to their customers through lower premiums.

WALES

■ Conditions of Employment

Owen Smith: [\[208893\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, how many staff the Wales Office employs on zero hour contracts.

Alun Cairns:

The Wales Office does not have any staff employed on zero hour contracts.

■ Official Engagements

Owen Smith: [\[208868\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, which official engagements have been held in the Wales Office in the last three months.

Stephen Crabb:

Details of all official ministerial engagements are published on the Wales Office website every quarter.

WORK AND PENSIONS

■ National Insurance Contributions: Northern Ireland

Ian Paisley: [\[208525\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent steps he has taken to ensure that people in Northern Ireland who were 14 and 15 years of age in 1947 and who paid national insurance have these contributions recognised in their pensions.

Steve Webb:

National Insurance contributions are now an excepted matter and the responsibility of HMRC. However in relation to pensions, Northern Ireland has its own body of law which operates in parity with Great Britain.

Following the fundamental reforms of the National Insurance scheme in 1975 the law provided that only paid contributions and credits from the year in which a person reached age 16 to the year before the one in which they reached state pension age should be included for benefit purposes. The Government has no plans to review the position reached by Parliament in 1975.

■ Offshore Industry

Alex Cunningham: [\[208451\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of (a) single, (b) two-person, (c) three-person and (d) four-person occupancy standards for accommodation cabins in the offshore oil and gas industry on (i) the health and safety of offshore workers and (ii) operational safety on offshore installations.

Mr Mark Harper:

None. Standards of cabin accommodation are examined by inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive on a case-by-case basis. Inspectors will consider compliance with the specific requirements relating to cabins, during inspections and safety case assessments. These will also include examination of other health and welfare provisions for workers, emergency escape facilities and other safety provisions that could be affected if cabin occupancy arrangements change.

Alex Cunningham: [\[208452\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which statutory safety tests the Health and Safety Executive apply to an application from an operator in the offshore oil and gas industry for an increase in the occupancy rates for accommodation cabins on installations in the North Sea.

Mr Mark Harper:

The statutory requirements for offshore sleeping accommodation in the UK offshore sector are laid down in the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1996, Regulation 12, Schedule 1, paragraph 61. "*Any room designated as sleeping accommodation (a) must not be overcrowded; (b) must contain adequate space for the occupants to store their clothes; and (c) shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be occupied only by such number of persons as is consistent with reasonable privacy and comfort, having regard to the features of the room.*"

Alex Cunningham: [\[208453\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what changes have been made by the Health and Safety Executive to accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers on installations in the North Sea in the last three years; on what grounds the decision was made to approve such changes; and on what dates those changes were made.

Mr Mark Harper:

There have been no changes to statutory accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers on installations in the North Sea in the last three years.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) removed the requirement for operators to seek approval before making changes to accommodation arrangements from 1 st April 2014.

This decision was taken to ensure that notification arrangements did not constrain development and growth or prevent operators from staying on top of maintenance backlogs, including maintenance of safety critical equipment.

Alex Cunningham:

[208454]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent discussions (a) Ministers in his Department and (b) the Health and Safety Executive have had with trades union representatives on accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers on installations in the North Sea.

Mr Mark Harper:

DWP ministers have not had any discussions on offshore accommodation standards with trade union representatives.

HSE has had a range of discussions regarding accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers with trades union representatives, including at a meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee on 08 October 2013.

Alex Cunningham:

[208457]

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent discussions (a) Ministers in his Department and (b) the Health and Safety Executive have had with representatives of Oil and Gas UK on accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers on installations in the North Sea.

Mr Mark Harper:

DWP ministers have not had any discussions on offshore accommodation standards with representatives of Oil and Gas UK.

HSE has had a range of discussions regarding accommodation standards for offshore oil and gas workers with representatives of Oil and Gas UK, including at a meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee on 08 October 2013.