



This report shows written answers and statements provided on 3 September 2024 and the information is correct at the time of publication (06:35 P.M., 03 September 2024). For the latest information on written questions and answers, ministerial corrections, and written statements, please visit: <http://www.parliament.uk/writtenanswers/>

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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

BUSINESS AND TRADE

■ Zero Hours Contracts

Deirdre Costigan: [\[2166\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of banning zero hours contracts.

Justin Madders:

As outlined in the *Plan to Make Work Pay*, we will end exploitative zero hours contracts by giving workers the right to a contract that reflects the number of hours they regularly work. We will also introduce a new right to reasonable notice of shift patterns and a right to reasonable notice of changes to shifts, with compensation for shifts cancelled or curtailed at short notice.

These measures will end one-sided flexibility, ensuring all jobs provide workers with a baseline level of security and predictability.

EDUCATION

■ Children in Care

Helen Hayes: [\[2097\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what information her Department holds on the average level of profit made by (a) private and (b) local authority-managed residential homes for looked-after children in the latest period for which data is available.

Janet Daby:

The department does not hold or collect data on the profit levels of children's social care providers. However, the Competition and Markets Authority detailed in their 2022 report that the largest fifteen providers made, on average, 19.4% profit on fostering provision, 22.6% on children's home provision, and 35.5% on supported accommodation provision. The full report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-market-study-final-report/final-report>.

■ Children: Social Services

Helen Hayes: [\[2098\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to reduce excessive profits in the residential children's social care sector.

Janet Daby:

Profiteering from vulnerable children in care is unacceptable. As part of the Children's Wellbeing Bill, the department will strengthen the regulation of the sector to return

children's social care to delivering high quality outcomes for looked after children at a sustainable cost to the taxpayer.

■ Schools: Construction

Richard Foord: [2564]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has for delivery of the fourth wave of the School Rebuilding Programme.

Stephen Morgan:

The department has selected 513 schools for the School Rebuilding Programme. Several rebuilding projects have been completed under the programme, with many more at various stages of delivery. Where schools have not yet started a feasibility study, start dates will be communicated at least a month in advance.

■ Special Educational Needs: Waiting Lists

Ben Goldsborough: [2202]

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what information her Department holds on the number of children and young people who were waiting for an Education, Health and Care Plan decision after (a) less than six months, (b) six months to a year, (c) one to two years, (d) two to three years, (e) three to four years, (f) four to five years and (g) more than five years in the latest period for which data is available, broken down by local authority.

Catherine McKinnell:

The department publishes official statistics on Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans annually, which can be found here: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>. This includes data at local authority level on the rate of EHC plans issued within the deadline of 20 weeks.

The attached table contains details of assessments in 2023 by local authority and by the duration, in days, between the date of the request for assessment and the date of the assessment outcome. This includes those for whom a plan was issued and those with the decision not to issue a plan, but excludes cases where the assessment was withdrawn.

The person-level data collection on EHC plans is in its second year. As a result, we expect the quality of data returns to improve over time, as the collection becomes established. In particular, the recording of the dates of the assessment request and the assessment outcome is subject to data quality issues, which become especially prominent when looking at a low level of granularity. For this reason, cases over two years have been aggregated, and where the date of request is missing or was recorded after the outcome date, this is marked in the table as 'not available'. The department continues to work with local authorities in understanding and improving the data collection.

Attachments:

1. EHCP Data [2202_EHCP_time_decision_230824.xlsx]

ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO**■ Great British Energy**

Dave Doogan: [\[2133\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether he expects GB Energy to generate funds through (a) generation of energy, (b) distribution of energy and (c) any other mechanism.

Michael Shanks:

Great British Energy will be a publicly-owned energy company that will invest in, own and operate projects, including generation assets, that expect a return on investments, generating revenue and delivering profits that will benefit the public. Any profit generated through Great British Energy will be channelled into creating further benefits for the UK taxpayers, billpayers and communities. Government does not intend for Great British Energy to be a retail energy supplier.

Dave Doogan: [\[2134\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether GB energy will (a) build and (b) operate energy generation capacity by 2045.

Michael Shanks:

Great British Energy will be a publicly-owned energy company that will invest in, own and operate projects. Great British Energy will support the Government's clean power mission by partnering with industry, local authorities and communities.

The exact detail and timeline of specific projects will be set out as appropriate by Great British Energy itself, as an operationally independent company.

Dave Doogan: [\[2135\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether Great British Energy will purchase and operate any existing energy generation capacity in the UK.

Michael Shanks:

Government does not intend for Great British Energy to buy existing generation assets from private sector operators. Instead, Government anticipates that it will develop a portfolio of new assets, boosting Britain's energy security whilst also delivering revenues to the British taxpayer. Government will do this by working in partnership with the private sector, local authorities and communities.

Dave Doogan: [\[2136\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether offshore wind projects developed with help from Great British Energy's early development work and investment will be co-owned by Great British Energy.

Michael Shanks:

Great British Energy will be a publicly-owned energy company that will invest in, own and operate projects. Great British Energy will support the Government's clean power mission by partnering with industry, local authorities and communities.

The exact detail and timeline of specific projects will be set out as appropriate by Great British Energy itself, as an operationally independent company.

■ Great British Energy: Finance**Dave Doogan:**[\[2137\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, whether any of the £8.3 billion funding allocated to Great British Energy over the next five years will be spent on funding the Contracts for Difference scheme.

Michael Shanks:

No. The 8.3bn of funding allocated to Great British Energy over the next five years will be an additional measure and will not replace the need for other government support mechanisms such as the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme. The CfD Scheme is funded through a separate route via the CfD Supplier Obligation Levy. This government has increased the budget for allocation round six of the CfD Scheme by over 50%. The budget is now set at £1.555 billion.

■ Great British Nuclear**Andrew Bowie:**[\[2461\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what role Great British Energy will have in the (a) governance and (b) duties of Great British Nuclear.

Michael Shanks:

Government is exploring how Great British Energy and Great British Nuclear will work together, including considering how Great British Nuclear functions can be aligned with Great British Energy.

■ Offshore Industry: Training**Andrew Bowie:**[\[2465\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what steps his Department plans to take to help workers in the oil and gas industry transition away from the industry following the ban on new oil and gas licences.

Michael Shanks:

We do not intend to issue new licences to explore new fields because they will not reduce bills and cannot make us energy secure. We will ensure a phased and responsible North Sea transition, with no community left behind.

We recently set up the Office for Clean Energy Jobs, which will seek to maximise the opportunities of the transition for workers. This will be critical to meeting our mission to make the UK a clean energy superpower.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**■ Pesticides: Neonicotinoids****Sir Desmond Swayne:****[2026]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take steps to ensure that the pesticide Cruiser SB is properly assessed before being authorised for use.

Emma Hardy:

Pesticides are strictly regulated based on the risks and benefits of use. The Government will always take decisions according to these legal requirements and with full consideration of the evidence.

This government recognises that nature is at a crisis point across Britain. We will therefore change existing policies to prevent the use of those neonicotinoid pesticides that threaten our vital pollinators.

■ Sewage: Pollution Control**Deirdre Costigan:****[2165]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to help reduce sewage discharges by water companies into waterways.

Emma Hardy:

The Secretary of State recently met with water company bosses to make it clear that water firms will be held accountable for their performance for customers and the environment. During the meeting, water bosses signed up to the government's initial package of reforms to reduce sewage pollution and attract investment to upgrade infrastructure.

The government also announced a new Water (Special Measures) Bill, which will turn around the performance of water companies, in the King's Speech. The Bill will strengthen regulation, give the water regulator new powers to ban the payment of bonuses if environmental standards are not met and increase accountability for water executives. These are the first critical steps in enabling a long-term and transformative reset of the entire water sector.

I would also refer the hon. Member to the Written Statement made by the Secretary of State on 18 July, [HCWS3](#).

■ Water: Industry**Melanie Onn:****[2090]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the availability for water for industrial purposes.

Emma Hardy:

It is a duty on water companies to maintain, improve and extend their water supply networks, to account for future water needs. Included within these plans, companies have to make estimates of demands from non-household customers, such as those for industrial users. Last year, regional water resources groups and water companies consulted on their draft water resources plans. These statutory plans set out how each company will secure water supplies sustainably for at least the next 25 years. The draft water resources management plans contain proposals for multiple new water resources schemes by 2050. Further information on the proposals can be found in the Environment Agency's [Summary of England's draft regional and water resources management plan](#).

FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE■ **Bangladesh: Police****Dr Rupa Huq:****[2099]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of imposing sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion.

Catherine West:

The Interim Government in Bangladesh has the UK Government's support as it works to restore peace and order and ensure accountability following recent protests. We are aware of reports of human rights violations by the Rapid Action Battalion. We have expressed support for a full and independent UN-led investigation into recent events. Sanctions are one tool in our foreign policy toolkit. Our sanctions policy will be guided by the situation on the ground. We do not speculate on who may be designated in the future.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE■ **Eating Disorders: Mental Health Services****Rachael Maskell:****[1935]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help ensure that there is a comprehensive strategy for meeting the (a) clinical and (b) care needs of people with eating disorders.

Stephen Kinnock:

[Holding answer 2 September 2024]: The Department is committed to working closely with NHS England to ensure that people with an eating disorder get the care and treatment they need, when they need it. The Department will focus on improving the performance of the existing waiting time standards for Children and Young Peoples' Eating Disorder services.

This will be supported by recruiting 8,500 additional mental health staff, ensuring every young person has access to a specialist mental health professional at school, and setting up Young Futures hubs in every community, offering open access mental health services for young people.

■ **Gynaecology: Waiting Lists**

Deirdre Costigan:

[\[2168\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to reduce gynaecology waiting lists.

Karin Smyth:

Tackling waiting lists is a key part of our Health Mission and a top priority for the Government, as we get the National Health Service back on its feet. Equality of both access to care and outcomes will be at the heart of building an NHS that is fit for the future. This includes ensuring that women's health is not neglected.

We have committed to achieving the NHS constitutional standard that 92% of patients should wait no longer than 18 weeks from Referral to Treatment by the end of this Parliament, which includes those waiting for gynaecology treatment. To achieve this, we will start by delivering an extra 40,000 operations, scans, and appointments each week across the country, and will increase the number of computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, and other tests, that are needed to reduce elective and cancer waits. This urgent work will help the nearly 600,000 women stuck on gynaecology waiting lists get the medical care they need.

HOME OFFICE

■ **Exploitation: Children**

Steve Darling:

[\[2587\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to criminalise the act of exploiting children for criminal purposes.

Jess Phillips:

The Government is committed to preventing young people being lured into crime, drugs, and criminal gangs. We will deliver on our Manifesto commitment and will bring forward measures to strengthen the law to tackle child criminal exploitation.

■ **Fire and Rescue Services**

Grahame Morris:

[\[2057\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps is she taking to increase the number of (a) wholetime and (b) retained firefighters.

Dame Diana Johnson:

The Government is committed to ensuring fire and rescue services have the resources they need to do their important work. Overall, fire and rescue authorities

will receive around £2.87 billion in 2024/25. Standalone FRAs will see an increase in core spending power of £95.4m in 2024/25. This is an increase of 5.6 per cent in cash terms compared to 2023/24.

Decisions on how fire and rescue services are run, and how their resources and crewing number, are for the local Chief Fire Officers and their democratically elected fire and rescue authority. They are responsible for ensuring the needs and demands of their local community are met and are able to direct their resources where they are needed most.

All Fire and Rescue Authorities have a statutory duty to produce a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) in which they set out the key challenges and risks facing their communities and how they intend to meet and reduce them. This is in line with the Fire and Rescue National Framework, which is the document by which the Home Office sets strategic requirements for the fire and rescue service.

■ Homicide: Arrests

Sir Julian Lewis:

[2025]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what circumstances an individual arrested for murder is (a) held in custody and (b) released on police bail.

Dame Diana Johnson:

A suspect arrested on suspicion of murder may be held in custody before charge where the custody officer a) is determining whether he has before him sufficient evidence to charge them with the offence for which he was arrested and b) has reasonable grounds for believing that the suspect's detention is necessary to obtain evidence (for example, witness statements, interview, or medical examination) (PACE section 37). There are statutory limits on the time for which suspects can be held in custody without charge (section 41).

A suspect arrested, including on suspicion of murder, may be released within the authorised detention period on conditional or unconditional police bail, pre-charge, a) where there is as yet insufficient evidence to charge a suspect and they are released pending further investigation and b) where the police consider that there is sufficient evidence to charge, but the matter must be referred to the CPS for a charging decision (PACE section 35 and section 37).

Preconditions for police bail include the need to prevent offending by the suspect, the need to safeguard victims of crime and witnesses, the need to manage risks to the public and the need to secure the suspect's surrender to custody (PACE section 50A). Where the individual's release is required and no pre-conditions for bail are met, they must be released under investigation or subject to no further action (section 37).

Where a murder suspect is to be released on pre-charge bail, police should seek the views of close family members of the alleged victim, if it is reasonably practicable to do so, when deciding whether the suspect should be released on bail, and if so whether and what conditions should be imposed (section 47ZZA).

Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA 1994), suspects who have been charged with murder are not eligible for police bail pending appearance at court for that offence unless exceptional circumstances apply (PACE section 38(1)(c) and section 25 CJPOA 1994). They must be kept in police custody and brought before a court not later, in most cases, than the first sitting after they are charged with the offence (section 46).

The rules and procedures relating to police bail are governed by PACE and the Bail Act 1976.

HOUSING, COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

■ Affordable Housing

Lee Anderson:

[\[900289\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to build more affordable homes.

Angela Rayner:

Due to the failures of the previous Government, the target for the Affordable Homes Programme has been cut from 180,000 to 130,000 homes, or less.

Ensuring the biggest boost to social and affordable housing in a generation is a personal priority.

We have already:

- proposed reforms to the NPPF
- asked Homes England and the GLA to maximise AHP allocations for social rent homes
- given councils new flexibilities on how they spend their Right to Buy receipts
- and confirmed we'll set out more details on Government investment in social and affordable housing in the next Spending Review.

■ Council Housing: Construction

Mr Clive Betts:

[\[2237\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of requiring local authorities in their local plans to (a) allocate sites for (i) social housing and (ii) housing for elderly persons and (b) ensure the provision of housing with high-level adaptations for people with disabilities.

Matthew Pennycook:

The National Planning Policy Framework outlines that it is for local authorities to assess the size, types and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community, including those who require affordable housing, people with disabilities,

older people, and to reflect this in their planning policies. In 2019, we published guidance to help local planning authorities implement this policy.

We are consulting on our approach to revising the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. This includes proposed changes designed to support the delivery of affordable homes including social rent, alongside securing a mix of types and tenures including housing for specific groups including older people. The consultation began on Tuesday 30 July and closes on Tuesday 24 September.

■ **Housing: Greater London**

Andrew Rosindell:

[\[900290\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on housebuilding targets in outer London.

Angela Rayner:

In my recent meeting with the Mayor of London, he reiterated his commitment to help reach our target of 1.5 million homes.

This Government is committed to work in partnership with our Mayors to achieve our shared aims.

I look forward to working with the Mayor, boroughs and the wider sector to build the homes London needs across the entire capital – and do the same for the whole country.

■ **Local Government: Devolution**

Kevin Bonavia:

[\[900286\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent discussions she has had with metro mayors and local authorities on further devolution.

Paul Waugh:

[\[900292\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent discussions she has had with metro mayors and local authorities on further devolution.

Angela Rayner:

In the first days of this Government, the Prime Minister and I met Mayors in Downing Street to discuss devolution and the critical role for mayors in delivering our Mission of Economic Growth.

Building on the last Labour Government's legacy of the devolution in Scotland and Wales, the Prime Minister and I are determined to see devolution extended to every corner of England and I have invited local areas without a devolution agreement to come forward.

We will continue to work with local leaders, councils, Members of Parliament and stakeholders to deepen and widen devolution across England.

Melanie Onn:

[\[900291\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of devolution on local economies.

Jim McMahon:

This Government is committed to transferring power out of Westminster and into local communities, with landmark legislation to expand devolution across England, devolve further powers to local leaders, those with local knowledge and those with skin in the game, to drive economic growth, and empower local communities.

International evidence shows that, if done correctly, devolution can lead to economic growth and increased productivity. That is why we have committed to introducing an English Devolution Bill, which will give mayors and combined authorities the powers they need to implement local growth plans - setting a clear and bespoke direction for each local economy across the country.

■ **Second Homes: Council Tax**

Mr Clive Betts:

[\[2236\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of preventing second home owners who become subject to a higher council tax charge from switching their home to a business and avoiding council tax altogether.

Jim McMahon:

From April 2025 councils have discretionary powers to charge a council tax premium of up to 100% on second homes. Properties available for commercial short-term letting may be eligible for business rates where they have been available to let for at least 140 days in the past year, are available to let for at least 140 days in the next year and can demonstrate at least 70 days of actual letting activity in the last year. The Government will continue to keep all tax policy under review.

JUSTICE

■ **Reoffenders**

Sir John Hayes:

[\[2235\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of her policy to change the automatic release point to 40% for certain standard determinate sentences on reoffending rates.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

Prisoners released on SDS40 will be subject to licence and liable to recall to prison if they do not comply or are judged a risk to public safety. Reoffending rates are published regularly on an annual and quarterly basis. The most recent rates are

available at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/proven-reoffending-statistics>.

A critical element of reducing reoffending is ensuring offenders leaving prison can access the support they need to resettle effectively into the community. There are clear processes in place to ensure all releases are carefully managed by Prison and Probation staff. An offender's resettlement needs are assessed on their arrival into the prison estate, with appropriate provision arranged in advance of release. When the release date is changed, as is the case with SDS40, this provision is realigned to that new release date.

As with any offender being released, where victims are receiving the services of the Victim Contact Scheme (VCS) or the Victim Notification Scheme (VNS), they will be informed about the release of an offender.

■ Wandsworth Prison

Ruth Cadbury: **[2349]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what her planned timetable is for the production of the action plan for HMP Wandsworth.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons' findings at HMP Wandsworth are deeply concerning. The Lord Chancellor and the Minister of State for Prisons are determined to drive improvement at the prison and we published our response to the Urgent Notification on 6 August 2024.

We also published HMP Wandsworth's full action plan on 29 August 2024. This action plan addresses the key concerns made by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) during the inspection.

Lord Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons, visited HMP Wandsworth on 2 September, accompanied by Lord Ponsonby and will continue to take an active interest in progress at the prison until we are persuaded that sustainable improvement has been delivered.

■ Wandsworth Prison: Health Services

Ruth Cadbury: **[2350]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Answer of 14 March 2024 to Question 17970 on Wandsworth Prison: Health Services, when she expects the new healthcare unit to open.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

The new healthcare unit is expected to open in mid-September 2024.

■ Wandsworth Prison: Pest Control**Ruth Cadbury:**[\[2348\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of pest control at HMP Wandsworth in the last 12 months.

Sir Nicholas Dakin:

HMP Wandsworth pays £16,238 per annum for a contracted weekly pest control service. The cost of additional pest control work during the last 12 months totals £99,900.92. This work is being carried out as part of our wider efforts to improve living conditions at the prison, which also includes additional specialist staff, to ensure immediate action is being taken.

SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**■ Incubator for Artificial Intelligence****Alex Burghart:**[\[1967\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what the (a) current and (b) planned full-time equivalent headcount of i.AI is.

Feryal Clark:

As a new team i.AI is still recruiting to fill the agreed full-time headcount of 70 staff. The current equivalent headcount is 43.

TRANSPORT**■ A12 and A14: Suffolk****James Cartlidge:**[\[2118\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to take steps to help tackle congestion at Copdock Junction of the A14 and A12 in Suffolk.

Lilian Greenwood:

Proposed improvements to Junction 55 of the A14, Copdock Junction remain under consideration for delivery in a future Road Investment Strategy.

■ A180**Melanie Onn:**[\[2092\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent assessment she has made of the (a) roadway noise and (b) other environmental impacts of the A180.

Lilian Greenwood:

Recent assessments of road noise on the A180 were undertaken by National Highways near Stallingborough in May 2024 ahead of proposed works linked to future concrete repairs. The noise levels recorded were between 65.9dB and 82.0dB and this is comparable to a 5- to 10-year-old asphalt road surface.

Other environmental assessments include ecological surveys of the adjacent species rich grasslands to assess biodiversity, and CCTV surveys of drainage assets to check their condition and inform future work.

■ Cars: Hire Services

Jim Shannon:

[\[2328\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her (a) Department and (b) agencies take steps to (i) monitor and (ii) prevent the use of vehicles by car rental operators registered outside of the UK to circumvent the zero emission vehicle mandate.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Department for Transport works closely with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Devolved Governments to verify vehicle registration and location data for use in compliance. The ZEV Mandate includes a range of measures to prevent and penalise circumvention.

■ Clean Air Zones

Helen Whately:

[\[2442\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she has plans to increase the number of clean air zones.

Lilian Greenwood:

Clean Air Zones (CAZ) are road user charging measures that local authorities in the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) Programme introduced to address NO₂ exceedances. Local authorities lead the development of plans to improve air quality, which are then assessed by Government. CAZ have been implemented by local authorities where modelling has shown them to achieve NO₂ compliance in the shortest possible time. The majority of the local authorities in the programme have agreed their local plans. Greater Manchester's CAZ remains under review.

■ Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Greg Smith:

[\[2509\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans she has for (a) retaining and (b) amending her Department's statutory guidance entitled Implementing low traffic neighbourhoods, which was published on 17 March 2024.

Lilian Greenwood:

The low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) guidance is not in force as it was published in draft. The Government will be considering next steps with this guidance.

■ Motorways

Greg Smith:

[\[2508\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether it is her policy to build new smart motorways.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Government takes road safety very seriously and reducing those killed and injured on our roads is a key priority and that is why we are committed to delivering a new Road Safety Strategy. We will not roll out new smart motorways.

■ Parking: Pedestrian Areas

Greg Smith: [2507]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department plans to respond to the consultation entitled Pavement parking: options for change, published on 29 June 2023.

Lilian Greenwood:

In 2020, the Department undertook a public consultation on options for changing the way pavement parking is managed outside London. We are considering the views received to inform the Government's next steps for pavement parking policy. The formal consultation response will be available to view at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking

■ Railway Stations: Access

Sir Oliver Dowden: [2362]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to allocate further funding through the Access for All programme.

Lilian Greenwood:

We are carefully considering the best approach to the Access for All programme. This Government is committed to improving the accessibility of the railway and recognise the social and economic benefits this brings to communities.

■ Railways: North of England

Dr Kieran Mullan: [2553]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress her Department has made on (a) strategic rail projects in the north of England and (b) Northern Powerhouse Rail.

Lilian Greenwood:

We are committed to a long-term approach to infrastructure and investment, taking account of local transport priorities. We will thoroughly review the fiscal position we have inherited before setting out more detailed plans for this in due course.

■ Rapid Transit Systems

Mr Clive Betts: [2238]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the tram train pilot between Sheffield and Rotherham, how many similar schemes (a) have been developed, (b) are under construction and (c) are being planned.

Simon Lightwood:

There are currently no other tram-train examples in England. The Department is currently working with Greater Manchester Combined Authority as they develop their business case for their "Pathfinder" project in the North East Quadrant of Greater Manchester, where tram-train is being considered as a potential technology option.

In addition, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) is considering the expansion of the Sheffield Supertram, which might include tram-train, and the Department is working closely with SYMCA as they continue to develop those plans.

Restoring Your Railways Fund: Somerset

Sarah Dyke: [\[2153\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she plans to take to improve rail connections in Somerton and Langport in the context of the cancellation of the Restoring Your Railway Fund.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Department is undertaking a capital spend portfolio review. The review will consider a number of projects under the former Restoring Your Railway programme.

Road Traffic Control: Kent

Helen Whately: [\[2433\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will take steps to manage HGV traffic to Dover in addition to the use of (a) Operation Brock and (b) Brenley Corner.

Helen Whately: [\[2434\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will take steps to implement an alternative to Operation Brock in summer 2024.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Kent & Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) is responsible for operational decision making on traffic management measures in response to disruption at Eurotunnel and/or the Port of Dover. The KMRF have well-practised tactical plans in place, including Operation Brock.

The traffic management at Brenley Corner at the M2/A2 interchange is a key measure in order to help stop freight using undesignated routes to Dover when they should be using the M20 and into the M20 Brock contraflow. This has played a crucial role throughout this summer where we saw many HGV drivers trying to bypass the measures on the M20.

While these measures help to mitigate against the worst of any disruption, the Department still recognises the impact disruption has on local residents, businesses, hauliers, and passengers. Therefore, the Department is working with the KMRF and other local stakeholders to continually improve how traffic management plans operate.

■ Road Works

Paula Barker:

[\[2543\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an estimate of the proportion of the road network that was restricted due to (a) roadworks and (b) closures on 22 July 2024.

Lilian Greenwood:

My Department does not collect information on road closures and we are not able to make an assessment of the proportion of the road network that was restricted. Roads are managed by either National Highways or local highway authorities, depending on the road in question.

The Department does hold data on the number of utility street and authority road works carried out in England via its Street Manager service for planning and managing works. The latest data available is for June 2024 which showed that 172,753 number of works took place that month.

■ Road Works: Cost Effectiveness

Paula Barker:

[\[2545\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she is taking to ensure that (a) roadworks and (b) road maintenance are carried out in the most (i) efficient and (ii) cost-effective way.

Lilian Greenwood:

Road works are essential to ensure that utility companies can install and maintain the infrastructure on which we all rely and highway authorities can maintain their roads to an appropriate standard. We continue to work closely with utility companies and local authorities to ensure that works are planned, managed and co-ordinated in the most efficient way, and in a way that reduces the impact they have on congestion and road users.

Those carrying out works must apply for a permit in advance from the relevant authority via the Department for Transport's digital service known as Street Manager, which allows for co-ordination and planning, monitors performance and works' durations, and streams open data on live and planned works. We also continue to look for improvements that can be made to the legislative framework that governs how works should be carried out.

■ Road Works: Costs

Paula Barker:

[\[2544\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the annual cost is of (a) overrunning and (b) delayed road maintenance works.

Lilian Greenwood:

Under the 1980 Highway Act, it is the responsibility of the local highway authority to maintain and manage the highway network it is responsible for.

The Department for Transport does not collect nor require local highway authorities to provide data about the costs of overrunning and/or delayed road maintenance works. However, it recognises that overrunning works can cause significant disruption to people's journeys and congestion. For example, overrunning works by utility companies have previously been estimated to cost the economy over £4 billion per year.

The [Traffic Management Act 2004](#) (TMA) contains powers to enable authorities to operate permit schemes, which have been essential in improving the management and coordination of works, thereby reducing disruption and impacts on road users.

■ Road Works: Public Consultation

Greg Smith: **[2506]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department plans to respond to the closed consultation entitled Street works: fines and lane rental surplus funds.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Government is currently analysing responses to this consultation.

■ Roads: Construction

Mr Richard Holden: **[2143]**

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate her Department has made of the potential (a) cost of and (b) return per pound spent on each scheme in the (i) Strategic Road Network and (ii) Major Road Network and Large Local Major Programmes (A) that is at (1) planning and (2) construction stage and (B) the cancellation of which was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in her statement on Spending inheritance on 29 July 2024.

Lilian Greenwood:

The total estimated cost of committed schemes in the Roads Investment Strategy (RIS) at planning stage (excluding Lower Thames Crossing) is £8.5 billion, and for schemes under construction the total is £4.1 billion. The total estimated cost of the schemes in the Major Road Network (MRN) and Large Local Major (LLM) Programmes at planning stage is £6.2 billion and for schemes under construction the total is £1.2 billion. The value for money of the enhancement schemes in the second RIS programme (RIS2), including those already completed, is estimated to be "medium". Based on an average of the available data, the indicative value for money of the MRN/LLM programme is estimated to be "high".

For the RIS schemes cancelled in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement the details are as follows:

SCHEME	ESTIMATED CAPITAL	
	COST	VALUE FOR MONEY
A303 Stonehenge	£2349m	Low
A27 Arundel	£630m	Low
A27 Worthing and Lancing	£26m	n/a

Value for Money information for A27 Worthing and Lancing is unavailable as the precise scope of the scheme had not yet been determined.

No schemes in the MRN/LLM programme were cancelled in the Chancellor's statement.

■ Roads: Kent

Helen Whately:

[\[2435\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much funding her Department plans to provide for road improvements at (a) Blue Bell Hill, (b) Brenley Corner and (c) other roads in Kent.

Helen Whately:

[\[2436\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department will continue to fund improvements to (a) Brenley Corner and (b) Bluebell Hill.

Helen Whately:

[\[2437\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to provide additional funding to fill in potholes in Kent.

Lilian Greenwood:

This Government is committed to ensuring that people have access to transport and transport infrastructure that enables them to travel to the destinations they want to reach and meets their needs.

On funding for roads, this year Kent County Council received an additional £4.296 million for highways maintenance, on top of the over £34 million it typically receives as part of the SR21 3-year settlement. Further funding beyond 2024/25 is matter for the forthcoming Spending Review.

In addition, in her statement on 29 July, the Chancellor announced that the Department for Transport will review its capital roads portfolio over the summer.

■ Roads: Repairs and Maintenance**Greg Smith:** [\[2511\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will use money from the cancellation of the A27 to repair potholes.

Lilian Greenwood:

This Government is committed to ensuring that people have access to transport and transport infrastructure that enables them to travel to the destinations they want to reach and meets their needs. As my Right Honourable Friend the Chancellor has set out, decisions must be made based on the assessment of the spending inheritance from the previous Government.

Tackling the poor state of our local roads is a priority for this Government, to ensure they are safe and serve all road users, and we will set out how we will achieve this in due course.

■ Roads: Safety**Siân Berry:** [\[2681\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when she plans to publish an updated Road Safety Statement; and whether that update will include a Vision Zero approach.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Government has announced that it intends to publish a new Road Safety Strategy, the first in over a decade. Work is already underway on this and further details will be set out in due course.

■ Roads: Speed Limits**Helen Whately:** [\[2443\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she has plans to increase the number of roads with 20 mph speed limits.

Lilian Greenwood:

The power to introduce 20mph limits on roads in England rests with local authorities.

■ Shipping: Carbon Emissions**Melanie Onn:** [\[2363\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of lower carbon-emitting fuels on the rate of decarbonisation of the maritime sector.

Mike Kane:

Decarbonising transport is central to the delivery of the UK's cross-economy climate targets, and directly supports the Prime Minister's mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower and accelerate our journey to net zero.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s revised 2023 greenhouse gas (GHG) strategy and the upcoming negotiations later this year will be of vital importance to decarbonising the global maritime sector. The measures under consideration include a goal-based marine fuel standard which would drive down the GHG intensity of marine fuels and incentivise the uptake the cleaner zero and near zero GHG emission fuels. The potential impact of these global measures will be considered in a comprehensive impact assessment as part of this negotiation process.

This work goes hand in hand with the need to unlock investment in maritime decarbonisation technologies; zero and near zero GHG emission vessels; and green port infrastructure within the UK.

■ Tolls

Helen Whately: [\[2445\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether she plans to (a) consider further introductions of and (b) increase the use of (i) congestion, (ii) ultra low emission zone and (iii) pay per mile road charges.

Lilian Greenwood:

Local highway authorities in England have the powers to introduce road charging schemes. They do not require ministerial or parliamentary approval for such schemes. There are no pay-per-mile road charges currently in the UK.

Helen Whately: [\[2446\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what research her Department has (a) undertaken and (b) commissioned into the potential impacts of (i) pay per mile road charging and (ii) similar schemes.

Lilian Greenwood:

The Department has not undertaken or commissioned any such research since the conclusion of the road pricing demonstrations project in 2011.

TREASURY

■ Beer: Excise Duties

Tom Gordon: [\[900224\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps she is taking to help support independent breweries through the alcohol duty system.

James Murray:

The Government recognises the important contribution of independent breweries to our economy and society.

Alongside the current alcohol duty freeze until 1 February 2025, the duty system gives specific support to small producers and products sold on draught:

- Small Producer Relief means that small brewers see reduced duty rates on all products below 8.5% alcohol by volume;
- and Draught Relief reduces duty on qualifying draught beers and ciders by 9.2%.

■ Cash Dispensing

Neil Duncan-Jordan: [\[900229\]](#)

What steps her Department is taking to ensure that shared banking hubs help improve access to cash for people who are financially excluded.

Tulip Siddiq:

The Government is committed to protecting cash and the FCA published its final regulatory rules on 18 July. The Government also is working closely with the financial services sector to roll out at least 350 banking hubs. These will provide individuals, including those who are financially excluded, with critical cash and banking services. Cash Access UK expects to have 100 hubs open by the end of the year.

■ Cost of Living

Graham Leadbitter: [\[900222\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fiscal steps her Department is taking to support households with the cost of living.

James Murray:

The government is working to improve living standards for everyone across the country, which is why growth is a key priority. This is why we have got to work straightaway implementing planning reform and establishing the National Wealth Fund and Great British Energy.

The approach of this government will centre on fostering good work. This government will reform employment support to offer more people the dignity and purpose of meaningful employment.

We have begun supporting households with the cost of living by launching a Ministerial Taskforce on child poverty and updating the Low Pay Commission's remit to reflect the cost of living when making recommendations on the National Living Wage.

Any further steps will be set out in due course.

■ Development Aid

Deirdre Costigan: [\[2167\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate she has made of the funding required to restore aid spending to 0.7% of GDP.

Darren Jones:

This Government is committed to restoring ODA spending at the level of 0.7 per cent of GNI as soon as fiscal circumstances allow. The Government will set out its approach to the House in due course.

Emily Darlington:[\[900218\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will hold discussions with Cabinet colleagues on increasing spending on international development to 0.7% of GDP in the next spending review.

Darren Jones:

This Government is committed to restoring ODA spending at the level of 0.7 percent of GNI as soon as fiscal circumstances allow. The Government is currently undertaking a Spending Review and will set out its approach to the House in due course.

■ National Wealth Fund**Chris McDonald:**[\[900220\]](#)

What progress she has made with Cabinet colleagues on establishing a National Wealth Fund.

Emma Reynolds:

The government is working at pace to establish the national wealth fund which is critical to our growth and green energy missions.

It will crowd in investment from the private sector into the industries of the future and create jobs across the country.

The Chancellor will set out more detail at the international investment summit in October.

■ Pay: Young People**Mr Richard Holden:**[\[2542\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 30 July 2024 to Question 1812 on Pay: Young People, if she will make these calculations.

Tulip Siddiq:

I refer the Rt Hon. member to the publicly-available data sources listed in response to his previous question, from which further calculations can be made.

The statistics requested can be calculated for a typical worker on the minimum wage using the following data sources: average hours from ONS dataset HOUR01; inflation from ONS CPI series D7BT; historic Income Tax liabilities from HMRC, "Income Tax Personal Allowances and Reliefs"; historic National Insurance liabilities from HMRC, "Main Features of National Insurance Contributions". Links can be found on the GOV.UK Website here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/actualweeklyhoursworkedseasonallyadjustedhour01sa>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/d7bt/mm23>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-income-tax/income-tax-rates-and-allowances-current-and-past>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/main-features-of-national-insurance-contributions>

■ Private Education: Armed Forces

Sarah Green:

[2152]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of removing the VAT exemption on independent school fees on (a) families within the armed forces community and (b) families in receipt of the Continuity of Education Allowance.

James Murray:

The Government is committed to breaking down barriers to opportunity, ensuring every child has access to high-quality education, which is why we have made the tough decision to end tax breaks for private schools. This will raise revenue for essential public services, including investing in the education system.

The Government has set out the details of this policy in the technical note *Applying VAT to private School Fees and Removing the Business Rates Charitable Rates Relief for Private Schools*.

There are a small number of circumstances where the government contributes to the private school fees of children of UK military service personnel and UK diplomatic officials through the Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA).

The government will monitor closely the impact of these policy changes on affected military and diplomatic families, with the upcoming Spending Review being the right time to consider any changes to this scheme.

A technical consultation on the technical note and draft VAT legislation will be open until 15 September 2024.

■ Procurement: Coronavirus

Joe Powell:

[900215]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps she plans to take with Cabinet colleagues to recover public money spent on contracts for goods and services that were not provided during the pandemic.

Darren Jones:

We are appointing a fixed-term Covid Fraud Commissioner through an open competition that is running now. The Commissioner will make sure that everything is done to return the money owed to the public purse, with a primary focus on pandemic

PPE contracts. The Commissioner will report to the Chancellor, working with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and their report will be presented to Parliament for all Members to see.

■ Public Expenditure

Jayne Kirkham:

[\[900228\]](#)

What steps she is taking to help ensure value for money from public spending.

Darren Jones:

In her speech on the 29th of July, the Chancellor outlined the tough choices that this government will make to guarantee that we are tackling waste and driving efficiency.

This Government is placing value for money at the core of every decision, The Chancellor announced a new Office for Value for Money that will work system-wide to ensure that value for money is prioritised, and recommend necessary changes to deliver this ambition.

■ Public Finance

Gareth Bacon:

[\[900227\]](#)

What recent assessment she has made of the impact of levels of borrowing on public finances.

Tulip Siddiq:

Borrowing for the first four months of the financial year was £51.4bn, £4.7bn higher than the OBR forecast in March. This adds to the challenging fiscal position the government has inherited, with debt at its highest level since the 1960s. The Chancellor has commissioned a full economic and fiscal forecast from the Office for Budget Responsibility for the Budget on 30th October.

■ Social Security Benefits

Sir Ashley Fox:

[\[900225\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what fiscal steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to make efficiency savings in the welfare system.

Darren Jones:

In the July Statement, the Chancellor set out that all departments will find a 2% saving against their administration budgets so that we can improve the efficiency of the public sector, and prioritise frontline services. This government is also committed to bringing down rates of fraud and error in the welfare system, ensuring support is targeted to those who need it.

■ Unemployment: Chronic Illnesses

Alison Bennett:

[\[900223\]](#)

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment she has made with Cabinet colleagues of trends in the level of economic inactivity owing to ill-health.

Tulip Siddiq:

There are 9.4 million working age people who are economically inactive in the UK, an increase of 860,000 since the start of the pandemic. Inactivity due to ill health is a major reason for economic inactivity and stands at a near-record high of 2.8 million people. To tackle economic inactivity, we will publish a White Paper to Get Britain Working.

WALES**Wales Office: Ministers****Kit Malthouse:**[\[2390\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what (a) statutory and (b) non-statutory direct ministerial appointments excluding special advisers she has made; and (i) who the appointee was and (ii) what the (A) remuneration, (B) title and (C) terms of reference was for each appointment.

Jo Stevens:

Since my appointment as Secretary of State for Wales, I have not made any statutory or non-statutory direct ministerial appointments.

WORK AND PENSIONS**Pension Credit: Melton Borough****Edward Argar:**[\[2345\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in Melton Borough claimed pension credit in 2023.

Emma Reynolds:

Caseload statistics are routinely published and made publicly available via [DWP Stat-
xplore](#). At November 2023, there were 770 people claiming Pension Credit in Melton Borough.

Winter Fuel Payment: Wales**Ann Davies:**[\[2641\]](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate has she made of the number of households in Wales affected by the change to Winter Fuel Payments.

Emma Reynolds:

An estimated 400,000 households in Wales will be affected by the change to Winter Fuel Payments. This is the number of households that will no longer receive Winter Fuel Payment as they do not claim Pension Credit.

This estimation is calculated by subtracting the number of Pension Credit recipients in Wales from the number of Winter Fuel Payment recipients in Wales (using the latest statistics, sources shown below).

Please note that the above does not take into account any potential increase in Pension Credit take-up we might see as a result of the policy.

Sources used: [winter-fuel-payments-household-2022-to-2023.ods \(live.com\)](#)

[Stat-Xplore - Home \(dwp.gov.uk\)](#)

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

■ Contracts for Difference (CfD) Allocation Round 6 Results

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (Ed Miliband): [\[HCWS65\]](#)

The Sixth Contracts for Difference (CfD) auction results have been published today, unlocking 9.6GW of renewable electricity projects. Amongst others, contracts will be going to the two largest offshore wind farms in Europe, the world's largest floating offshore windfarm to date and record numbers of solar projects. These results are over 2.5 times bigger than Allocation Round 5. These new projects will boost energy independence, secure cheap power for families, and unlock economic growth and jobs for the country.

Following my decision to increase the budget to record levels, just over 130 renewable electricity projects across Great Britain secured contracts – enough to power the equivalent of 11 million homes.

I am delighted to see strong results across a range of renewable electricity technologies. In particular, a record 93 solar PV projects have secured contracts. This is more than the *total* number of contracts agreed via AR5 across all technologies and represents around a 20% increase in our current installed solar capacity. Solar is one of the cheapest, most readily-deployable energy sources we have at our disposal, and its growth will be vital to meeting our clean power mission.

I am also delighted to confirm we have secured the largest commercial-scale floating offshore windfarm project in the world through AR6 – at 400MW – double the size of current European total installed FLOW capacity. The construction and deployment of this project will deliver valuable lessons that will benefit the wider FLOW industry, and help reinforce Britain's position as a world leader in both fixed bottom and floating offshore wind technology. Tidal stream, another emerging technology, has secured a further six project contracts (totalling 28MW), bringing the UK total for tidal stream power procured to over 100MW.

After a disastrous outcome for offshore wind in AR5, it is very encouraging to see 4.9GW of capacity come through in AR6. This includes procuring Europe's second largest offshore wind project (considering operational projects and projects under construction). I am confident we can continue to build on this promising outcome in future rounds.

I am delighted that the CfD mechanism has delivered competitive prices across the board, with prices significantly below the ceiling prices (ASPs) – protecting consumers. More renewables like wind and solar on the system will also ensure Britain is less affected by fluctuations in volatile global gas prices.

The lifting of the onshore wind ban, this very successful Allocation Round 6, and the creation of Great British Energy, all signal the ramping up of our efforts to deliver clean power by 2030 and Net Zero, moving towards energy independence and protecting

families from volatile fossil fuel prices. Going forwards, we will continue to work with investors, developers, and the supply chain to accelerate our mission to become a clean energy superpower.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

■ Care Quality Commission Section 48 Review of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (Wes Streeting): [\[HCWS66\]](#)

On 30 January 2024, my predecessor as Secretary of State asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to conduct a special review of mental health services in Nottinghamshire in response to the horrendous killings of Ian Coates, Grace O'Malley-Kumar and Barnaby Webber.

I am grateful to CQC for the detailed work they have undertaken on this report. My thoughts are with the families and friends of Barnaby, Grace and Ian. This report makes for distressing reading, especially for those living with this unimaginable loss in the knowledge that this tragedy could have been prevented.

The review was composed of three strands. The reports for strands 2 and 3, relating to the safety and quality of services provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) and the services provided at Rampton Hospital, were published on 26 March 2024.

On 13 August, CQC published the remaining report for strand 1 of the review into the care and treatment provided to Valdo Calocane by NHFT in the period leading up to the horrific events of June 2023. As part of this review, CQC were also asked to determine whether their review of Valdo Calocane's care and that of 10 other benchmarking cases indicated wider patient safety concerns or systemic issues with the provision of mental health services in Nottinghamshire.

This report identified serious failings in the care and treatment provided to Valdo Calocane by NHFT that may have contributed to these tragic killings after he was discharged from the Trust's mental health services. These failings are consistent with CQC's findings from strands 2 and 3 of the review, published in March, which identified issues with the safety of services and quality of care at NHFT as a whole.

While there was no single point of failure for Valdo Calocane's care identified in the report, the strand 1 review identified serious shortcomings relating to four areas: risk assessment and record keeping, care planning and engagement, medicines management, and discharge planning.

I have met with NHS England who have provided me with assurance that they and NHFT are taking action to address the serious failures identified in the report. I have made it clear to NHS England that I expect regular updates on progress against all the recommendations across the three strands of the review.

In advance of the publication of this report, NHFT have taken action to implement CQC's recommendations, specifically relating to managing patients who may be at risk of harming themselves or others. These actions include:

- changing Did Not Attend policies to make sure patients are not discharged for not attending appointments
- implementing systems to make sure staff more robustly consider risks to patients and the public
- reviewing the approach to managing beds - there are early positive signs of a reduction in patients being placed in incorrect care settings as a result
- putting into place a new crisis telephone system so that patients can access crisis services 24/7 without delay
- reviewing patients waiting to access community support - the waiting list has reduced from 1500 to 1092
- providing increased oversight for patients who are waiting to access care and checking medications for everyone in the community on antipsychotic medication

I have made it clear that I also expect regular progress reports from NHFT.

I also expect these findings and recommendations to be considered and applied throughout the country. NHS England has accepted all of CQC's recommendations and has initiated a series of actions to ensure nation-wide improvements are made.

As part of this work, NHS England has tasked every provider in England to review the policies and practices in place to ensure patients who are very unwell and who need help to engage with services do not fall through the cracks. I expect regular updates from NHS England on the progress of this review.

Other measures the NHS has already undertaken include:

- issuing guidance to trusts reiterating instructions not to discharge patients with serious mental health issues if they do not attend appointments
- commissioning an independent investigation into the incident, which will be published by the end of 2024
- continuing to improve data on community mental health services including developing metrics around access to psychological therapies for severe mental health problems and outcomes for people accessing community mental health services
- establishing an expert advisory group to oversee the development of core standards for safe care in community mental health services

TRANSPORT**■ Rail Reform****Secretary of State for Transport (Louise Haigh):**[\[HCWS67\]](#)

Today I am announcing that I will be instructing the CEO of Network Rail, the Director General for Rail Services in the Department for Transport, and the CEO of DfT OLR Holdings Ltd (DOHL) to establish a Shadow Great British Railways. As the main organisations responsible for the operational railway, they will be working in closer collaboration, bringing together track and train to deliver for passengers and freight users, ahead of legislation to create Great British Railways (GBR) as an arm's length body.

Our manifesto committed to putting passengers at the heart of the service by reforming the railways and bringing them into public ownership. Great British Railways will be created to deliver a unified system that focuses on reliable, affordable, high-quality, and efficient services; along with ensuring safety and accessibility.

GBR will put passengers back at the heart of the railways and introduce new measures to protect their interests. This will include paving the way for a powerful new passenger watchdog, the Passenger Standards Authority, to independently monitor standards and champion improvement in service performance against a range of measures. Great British Railways will reform the ticketing system, to make it simpler for passengers, drive innovation across the network, replace the current myriad of ticket types and maximise passenger growth.

There will be a statutory duty on GBR to promote the use of rail freight, alongside an overall growth target set by the Secretary of State. The Government will include safeguards to ensure that freight operators continue to receive fair access to the network. Open access operators have a proven track record in driving competition and better passenger outcomes, and where there is a case that open access operators can add value and capacity to the network, they will be able to.

While primary legislation is required to initiate the change to public ownership and establish GBR, this Government will begin delivering improvements for passengers and freight users straight away. That is why I am taking the immediate step of standing up Shadow Great British Railways today. The three organisations will work collaboratively, taking a whole-system approach to decision-making and driving improvement, whilst retaining their existing accountabilities and duties.

We can achieve change on how organisations work together quickly. But change on the ground, for those who use the railway, will take time. Our railways are fragmented and have been for decades, suffering from a short-sighted investment approach and not providing the services passengers and freight customers need. Delivering change for passengers will rely on building new levels of trust, openness and transparency across the industry, with diverse teams brought together that reflect the customers and communities we serve – setting the tone for reform and enabling us to create a modern and affordable railway for everyone in Britain.

I will expect Shadow Great British Railways to be passenger focused and unlock barriers to delivery. I will also expect it to work alongside my team and I with rail stakeholders and partners across Great Britain, including national and regional governments, mayors, the trade unions, train operators, passenger and freight representative groups, the supply chain, the regulator and railway staff to deliver improvements. As part of the plans for reform, this includes the need to speed up training for drivers and collaborate with the sector to build resilience and improve productivity.

I will be writing to the Chief Executives and the Director General to set their initial priorities and how I expect them to work together as Shadow Great British Railways.