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Thursday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF LORDS

WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

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[I] indicates that the member concerned has a relevant registered interest. The full register of interests can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

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Ministers and others who make Statements or answer Questions are referred to only by name, not their ministerial or other title. The current list of ministerial and other responsibilities is as follows.

<i>Minister</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Baroness Smith of Basildon	Leader of the House of Lords and Lord Privy Seal
Lord Collins of Highbury	Deputy Leader of the House of Lords and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Whip
Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on Trent	Spokesperson for NI Office, Scotland Office and Wales Office, Whip
Baroness Blake of Leeds	Whip
Baroness Chapman of Darlington	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
Lord Coaker	Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Lord Cryer	Whip
Baroness Gustafsson	Minister of State, Department for Business and Trade and HM Treasury
Lord Hanson of Flint	Minister of State, Home Office
Baroness Hayman of Ullock	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill	Minister of State, Department for Transport
Lord Hermer	Attorney-General
Lord Hunt of Kings Heath	Minister of State, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Baroness Jones of Whitchurch	Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Business and Trade and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and Whip
Lord Kennedy of Southwark	Chief Whip
Lord Khan of Burnley	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lord Leong	Whip
Lord Livermore	Financial Secretary, HM Treasury
Baroness Merron	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care
Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice, Whip
Baroness Sherlock	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions
Baroness Smith of Cluny	Advocate-General for Scotland
Baroness Smith of Malvern	Minister of State, Department for Education
Baroness Taylor of Stevenage	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Lord Timpson	Minister of State, Ministry of Justice
Baroness Twycross	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture Media and Sport, Spokesperson, Cabinet Office, Whip
Lord Vallance of Balham	Minister of State, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Baroness Wheeler	Deputy Chief Whip

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Written Statements

Thursday, 5 December 2024

House of Lords Appointments

[HLWS280]

Baroness Smith of Basildon: From today, political parties will be required to provide citations when making nominations for appointment to the House of Lords, summarising why an individual has been put forward.

It is for party leaders to consider who is best placed to represent their party in the House of Lords when nominating individuals for appointment to the upper House. From today political parties will need to provide a citation for each of their nominees, which will be published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) on successful appointment.

The House of Lords Appointments Commission will collate these citations, and will maintain its existing role in vetting all nominations for appointment as life peers, including those nominated by the political parties, to ensure the highest standards of propriety.

The Government will keep the appointments system under review as we progress wider reforms to the House of Lords.

Passenger Railway Services: Public Ownership

[HLWS281]

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill: My Right Honourable friend, the Secretary of State for Transport (Heidi Alexander), has made the following Ministerial Statement:

The Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill received Royal Assent on 28th November 2024, putting on the statute books this important piece of legislation – one of the first Government Bills to be enacted in this Parliament. The Act enables the Government to deliver its manifesto commitment to bring passenger services into public ownership as a first step towards wider rail reform.

Following Royal Assent being granted, I am today launching the programme to transition passenger rail services currently operated by privately-owned operators into public ownership and confirming that services currently operated by South Western Railway and c2c will be the first to transfer into public ownership when their National Rail Contracts expire on 25th May 2025 and 20th July 2025 respectively. The Government is also announcing that, in line with our approach of transferring services as existing contracts expire, Greater Anglia's services will be next to transfer in autumn 2025. The Government will issue an expiry notice to Greater Anglia in due course to confirm the exact transfer date.

I am determined that these will be smooth transitions for passengers and staff. Passengers who use South Western Railway, c2c and Greater Anglia's services can be reassured that trains will continue to run as normal, tickets can be purchased and used in the same way. Tickets bought before the transfer date for travel after that date will continue to be valid.

Safety will be a priority throughout the programme of transitioning passenger services into public ownership and the Department for Transport will work closely with the Office of Rail and Road, the independent regulator for the railways, in this regard. As with any transition, and in line with normal industry practices, appropriate licences, safety certificates and system must be in place before services transfer.

I recognise and value the dedication and expertise of our rail workforce, and the Government will wish to retain the committed and talented staff that keep the railways running for passengers. We will work closely with each operator to ensure that further information is shared directly with staff and trade unions at the appropriate time. The TUPE Regulations will apply in the same way as they have done in previous transfers, protecting employees' contractual terms and conditions as they transfer.

Following Greater Anglia, the programme will continue with the transfer of one operator's services roughly every three months. We expect these to follow the order in which operators' current contractual minimum terms expire, unless a TOC defaults on its contract to the extent that there is a contractual right to terminate (in which case it will transfer as soon as reasonably practicable) or other extenuating circumstances arise.

I will be monitoring very closely the performance of all existing train operators who run services under contract to the Department and, as the Government have made clear during the passage of the Bill, we will not hesitate to take decisive action where an operator's poor performance means that contractual conditions for early termination of a National Rail Contract are met.

The changes made by the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act 2024 make appointing a publicly owned operator the default rather than a last resort. Therefore, I am also announcing that, from today, the organisation responsible for managing the Public Sector Operators will be changing its name to DfT Operator Ltd. I look forward to working collaboratively with them as these transfers into public ownership begin and as the work of Shadow GBR continues.

Improving our railways will take time, but this is a crucial first step towards fundamental rail reform. Challenges remain on a system that is fragmented, complicated and provides little accountability. In the coming months we will set out more detail about how, through the establishment of Great British Rail, we will reform our railways to modernise working practices, make tickets simpler and fairer, deliver a better service for passengers and a better deal for taxpayers.

Plan for Change: Milestones for Mission-led Government

[HLWS282]

Baroness Smith of Basildon: Mt Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister made the following Statement:

This Government was elected to deliver change. To strengthen our country, in an increasingly volatile world, with a decade of national renewal.

This begins with the strong foundations of economic stability, secure borders and national security. In dangerous times, strengthening these foundations is ever more vital to the daily task of securing the national interest. The Government has begun this work, with a Budget that stabilised the economy, the creation of a new Border Security Command and increased investment in defence.

Building on these foundations, the Government has five national missions to deliver a decade of national renewal. These missions are our mandate, the priorities of working people:

- i) Kickstart economic growth.
- ii) Build an NHS fit for the future.
- iii) Safer streets.
- iv) Break down the barriers to opportunity.
- v) Make Britain a clean energy superpower.

To deliver change requires relentless focus and prioritisation, as well as tough decisions. This Government has already made such decisions to restore economic stability, including reforming agricultural property relief and means-testing the winter fuel allowance.

But, change has begun. Even while we have inherited the unprecedented twin challenges of crumbling public services and crippled public finances. We have made headway on our first steps: establishing Border Security Command; setting up Great British Energy, cracking down on anti-social behaviour; and beginning the work of recruiting 6,500 teachers in key subjects, paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools.

Our missions represent a long-term plan for the country, an end to the sticking-plaster policies of the past. They capture the basic hope that Britain can get better. This Government has also been clear that it will do things differently. That includes being open and honest about what we will deliver.

That is why, today, I am pleased to lay in this House, our *Plan for Change*.

Guided by our missions, this *Plan for Change* shows the path towards a decade of national renewal. To drive us forward in this Parliament, it sets clear milestones to track our progress and allow the British people to hold us to account. These are our milestones for change:

- Raising living standards in every part of the United Kingdom, so working people have more money in their pocket as we aim to deliver the highest sustained growth in the G7.
- Rebuilding Britain with 1.5 million homes in England and fast-tracking planning decisions on at least 150 major economic infrastructure projects.
- Ending hospital backlogs to meet the NHS standard of 92% of patients in England waiting no longer than 18 weeks for elective treatment.
- Putting police back on the beat with a named officer for every neighbourhood, and 13,000 additional officers, PCSOs and special constables in neighbourhood roles in England and Wales. Today, the Government has also announced £100 million funding in 2025/26 to support the initial delivery of 13,000 additional police officers, PCSOs and special constables into neighbourhood policing roles.
- Giving children the best start in life, with a record 75% of five-year-olds in England ready to learn when they start school.
- Securing home-grown energy, protecting billpayers, and putting us on track to at least 95% Clean Power by 2030, while accelerating the UK to net zero.

These milestones for change are ambitious. Indeed, given the appalling economic situation and state of public services we inherited, meeting these milestones in this Parliament represents a huge challenge. Together, they represent the most ambitious and honest programme for government in a generation. But they are achievable. And for the next five years, they will give our country the stabilising certainty of a clear destination.

The *Plan for Change* is not just about government: these are milestones for the entire country - a partnership between public and private sectors, national and local government, business and unions, alongside the whole of civil society.

And so I am pleased today, with the publication of our *Plan for Change*, to invite Parliament, and the people of the United Kingdom, to join us in this mission of national renewal.

Written Answers

Thursday, 5 December 2024

10 Downing Street: Flags

Asked by **Lord Lucas**

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans there are, if any, for (1) the asexual, and (2) the aromantic pride flags, to be displayed at 10 Downing Street. [HL2412]

Baroness Twycross: There are currently no plans to display the asexual and aromantic pride flags at 10 Downing Street.

Agriculture: Land

Asked by **Lord Roborough**

To ask His Majesty's Government what percentage of agricultural land is currently covered by countryside and environmental schemes; and what is their target for that coverage. [HL2939]

Baroness Hayman of Ullock: As of 1 October 2024, there are over 67,000 live agri-environment scheme agreements. This is the most popular accepted scheme agreements have been in history. The area under agri-environment schemes is a statistic that was not collected by the last Government. It is currently under development by Defra and is due for publication in the first half of 2025.

We recently announced that the farming budget will be £5 billion over the next two financial years, including the largest ever budget directed at sustainable food production and nature's recovery in our country's history: £1.8 billion for Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes to boost Britain's food security and accelerate the transition to a more resilient and sustainable farming sector.

Armed Forces: Equality

Asked by **Lord Jackson of Peterborough**

To ask His Majesty's Government what is the current status of their review into equality, diversity and inclusion spending in the Armed Forces. [HL1878]

Lord Coaker: Following the change in Government the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Permanent Secretary directed that the review into equality, diversity and inclusion spending in the Armed Forces should not be staffed to the new Ministerial team. The MOD continues to implement actions from the review that were previously endorsed by the MOD's People Committee.

Armed Forces: Private Education

Asked by **Baroness Goldie**

To ask His Majesty's Government how many representations they have received from members of the Armed Forces expressing concern about the decision to charge VAT on private school fees. [HL2743]

Lord Coaker: At the time of writing, the Ministry of Defence had received 53 letters or emails on this issue from Members of Parliament writing on behalf of a constituent, and members of the public. It is not possible to positively identify which of these are from members of the Armed Forces. In addition, there have been other informal approaches which have not been logged centrally.

We continue to support Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) as the means of mitigating the disruption to Service children's education caused by Service commitments involving frequent moves of the family home and recognise its importance for the Service personnel who utilise it.

That is why, to protect the integrity of the allowance, the Secretary of State for Defence directed that the cap on the current rates be lifted, and CEA rates recalculated, in recognition of the likely increase in school fees that will occur in January 2025 with the introduction of VAT on private school fees.

This re-rating exercise has now completed and Service personnel who claim the allowance have been informed by their respective Service of re-revised rates they can claim effective from 1 December in advance of the start of the spring term in January 2025.

Bus Services: Finance

Asked by **Lord Moylan**

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to their announcement on 17 November regarding £1 billion in funding for bus services, when they will publish the formula for allocation. [HL2761]

Lord Henty of Richmond Hill: The way funding has been allocated to local authorities represents a change from previous methodologies to a fairer and simpler system, moving away from a competitive process. This funding for local authorities to deliver their Bus Service Improvement Plans has been allocated based on local needs, considering three factors, equally weighted. These are:

- The level of population, the greater the population of the local transport authority the more money they will receive;
- The distance covered by buses in the authority, the greater the tendered bus mileage, the more money they will receive; and

• The index of multiple deprivation, published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is the official measure of relative deprivation in England.

Business Premises: Guide Dogs

Asked by Baroness Bakewell

To ask His Majesty's Government what guidance they provide to businesses regarding the entry of guide dogs to their premises, including with regard to their legal duties. [HL2805]

Lord Collins of Highbury: We are clear that people should not be refused access to businesses or services because they have a guide dog. Under the Equality Act 2010, businesses and public bodies that provide goods and services to the public must not unlawfully discriminate against disabled people, including those with assistance dogs. The Act places a duty on service providers to make reasonable adjustments to improve access to premises, buildings and services.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published a range of guidance on this matter to ensure that businesses and service providers are aware of their legal responsibilities towards customers with guide dogs and are equipped with the knowledge to ensure the Equality Act 2010 is complied with.

These provide examples of best practice and information on, for example, the requirement to make reasonable adjustments, including the admittance of guide dogs to premises. This is so that disabled customers have the same access to goods and services and are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled customers.

Chad: Conflict Resolution

Asked by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they intend to make Chad one of the focus countries for the UK's UN Security Council 1325 National Action Plan. [HL2984]

Lord Collins of Highbury: The Government supports the approach and ambition of the UK's 5th Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan and intends to build on this ambition during the 25th anniversary year, advancing implementation and focusing on new priorities. Although Chad is not currently a National Action Plan focus country, we continue to dedicate time and resource to delivering our strategic objectives in non-focus countries. Since 2018, the UK has dedicated over £2.9 million to the Women's Integrated Sexual Health programme in Chad. The UK continues to provide support to the response in Eastern Chad, providing £55.8 million since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023.

Conversion Therapy: Republic of Ireland

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Collins of Highbury on 26 November (HL2460), whether officials representing the government of the Republic of Ireland were part of the range of international counterparts or jurisdictions with which they recently discussed conversion practice policies. [HL2989]

Lord Collins of Highbury: I refer the Noble Lord to my answer to his previous question (HL2460), given on 26 November.

Defence: Procurement

Asked by Baroness Goldie

To ask His Majesty's Government what is their estimate of how much money they will save by reducing inefficiencies following the appointment of a new National Armaments Director. [HL2744]

Lord Coaker: We have commenced the recruitment process for the new National Armaments Director. As the role has yet to be appointed, it is too early to estimate the associated financial efficiencies.

Electric Vehicles: Charging Points

Asked by Lord Birt

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to require all providers of publicly available electric vehicle charging points to enable contactless payment. [HL2785]

Lord Henty of Richmond Hill: The Government is committed to ensuring that public charging is accessible for all, and it is vital that consumers can charge hassle-free. Under the Public Charge Point Regulations 2023 chargepoint operators are required to offer contactless payment options for all new chargepoints of 8 kW and above, as well as all chargepoints of 50 kW and above, old and new.

These regulations have been designed to ensure that contactless payment methods are available across a large part of the public charge point network, where they will bring most significant and immediate benefits to consumers.

Fertilisers: Carbon Emissions

Asked by The Earl of Effingham

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the expected impact of carbon pricing for fertilisers on the cost of business for farmers. [HL2791]

Lord Livermore: The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the UK's principal carbon pricing mechanism and covers the manufacturing of fertiliser. However, in recent years, UK-based fertiliser manufacturers have received more free allowances than they needed to surrender to cover their emissions.

The government will introduce the UK Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on 1 January 2027, as first announced in December 2023, meaning imported fertiliser will also be covered by a carbon price. The UK CBAM rate charged on imports will reflect the carbon price paid by domestic industries after support mechanisms (such as free allowances) have been taken into account. As a result, we expect initial liabilities arising from the UK CBAM to be relatively low whilst encouraging the supply and use of fertiliser with lower levels of embodied carbon than would otherwise have been the case.

Government Departments: Written Questions

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask the Leader of the House what steps she is taking to ensure that ministerial answers to questions for written answer are provided in a timely and accurate manner. [HL2986]

Baroness Smith of Basildon: All Government Ministers are fully aware of their responsibility to respond to questions for written answer within the 10-day target. When further information is required from other departments it may take longer to answer.

I have personally reminded Ministers of the 10-day target for their department. My office also routinely contacts departments who have breached the target, reminding them of their duty to ensure the target is met and to ascertain the reasons why deadlines have been missed.

Immigration: Sudan

Asked by Baroness Lister of Burtersett

To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to expand the eligibility criteria for family reunion for individuals in Sudan with family ties to the UK. [HL2752]

Lord Hanson of Flint: We do not have any such plans. Existing rules for family reunion and details on how to apply:

If you were separated from your partner or child when you were forced to leave your country, they can [apply to join you](#) in the UK.

Your family members can apply if you have been given asylum or 5 years' humanitarian protection, and not have British citizenship.

Non-crime Hate Incidents

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy inspection regime, to ensure that His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services include compliance with the provisions of the Codes of Practice into non-criminal hate incidents within their annual assessments. [HL2748]

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to require police forces to publish their full policies and procedures on the recording of non-criminal hate incidents (NCHIs), which would include making clear to the public the difference between hate crimes and NCHIs. [HL2749]

Asked by Lord Jackson of Peterborough

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to collate and publish on an annual basis the number of non-criminal hate incidents (NCHIs) recorded per police force; including disaggregating the number of NCHIs recorded which do and do not contain personal data. [HL2750]

Lord Hanson of Flint: The Government is carefully considering next steps relating to the recording of non-crime hate incidents.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) consults widely with the sector on its inspection programmes and frameworks. The Inspectorate's consultation on its 2025-29 police inspection programme closed in October, and a final version will be laid in Parliament in the new year following the Home Secretary's approval.

Prisoners' Release: Intimate Image Abuse

Asked by Baroness Owen of Alderley Edge

To ask His Majesty's Government how many prisoners convicted of sharing intimate images have been released early. [HL2762]

Lord Timpson: The new Government inherited a justice system in crisis and took decisive action to stop our prisons from collapsing. When we replaced the previous Government's early release scheme with SDS40, we specifically excluded sexual offences, including sharing intimate images without consent.

Data on SDS40 releases forms a subset of data intended for future publication.

Prisoners: Death

Asked by Lord Marlesford

To ask His Majesty's Government how many people in the UK have died in prison while serving custodial sentences in each of the past ten years. [HL2758]

Lord Timpson: The number of deaths of prisoners[1][2][3][4] serving custodial sentences[5][6] in England and Wales, 2014 to 2023:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>
2014	203
2015	205
2016	306
2017	259
2018	267
2019	264
2020	278
2021	318
2022	244
2023	258

Data Sources and Quality

These figures are derived from the HMPPS Deaths in Prison Custody database.

- 1) Figures include incidents during contracted out escorts. Figures include England and Wales only and not the whole UK as we only hold detailed data for England and Wales.
- 2) Figures do not include incidents at Medway STC. For more information on Secure Training Centres, please see Youth justice annual statistics at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/youth-justice-annual-statistics>.
- 3) Deaths in prison custody figures include all deaths of prisoners arising from incidents during prison custody. They include deaths of prisoners while released on temporary license (ROTL) for medical reasons but exclude other types of ROTL where the state has less direct responsibility.
- 4) In addition to deaths in prison custody, the figures include deaths in custody that occur in hospitals, hospices or nursing homes, and a small proportion will occur while in an ambulance on the way to hospital, while on escort.
- 5) Figures includes deaths of sentenced prisoners only, they do not include deaths of prisoners on remand, immigration detainees or non-criminal prisoners.
- 6) A breakdown of deaths by sentence type is published within the annual deaths tables, the latest annual deaths detailed data includes deaths up to 2023. Figures for 2024 deaths, including a breakdown by sentence type, will be published in January 2025.

Railways: Sunderland

Asked by Baroness Randerson

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to require London and North Eastern Railway to run

direct services between Sunderland and London Kings Cross beyond December. [HL2857]

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill: There are no plans to require London North Eastern Railway to run direct services between Sunderland and London Kings Cross beyond December 2024. Sunderland will continue to have direct London services provided by Open Access operators. Additionally, improvements to the Metro network will improve connectivity in the North East.

Road Traffic Control: Cameras

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have of the trial of AI motor cameras; and whether they have any plans to roll out the cameras nationally. [HL2861]

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill: Local traffic authorities may choose to use AI technology for specific purposes such as monitoring of traffic flows and possible vehicle conflicts, but there are no plans to roll this out nationally. The Department has funded limited trials of AI camera technology in some local authority areas.

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Asked by Lord Berkeley

To ask His Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to increasing the penalties for motorists who watch films or make video calls whilst driving. [HL2812]

Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill: This Government takes road safety seriously, and we are committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads. We are currently considering policy options in this area.

Since the general election, the Department has also begun work on a new Road Safety Strategy, the first in over a decade. The Department will share more details in due course.

Self-assessment

Asked by Lord Taylor of Warwick

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage people to complete their self-assessment tax return forms on time. [HL2779]

Lord Livermore: HMRC runs a comprehensive, integrated communications campaign to support Self Assessment customers in completing their tax returns accurately and on time. This campaign includes direct communications such as emails, letters, and text messages; social media; press and radio coverage; informative videos and webinars; stakeholder engagement; and targeted paid marketing activities.

Sudan: Refugees

Asked by *Baroness Hodgson of Abinger*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are providing aid to the government of Chad to help, and ensure the security of, refugees arriving in that country from Sudan; to support the local host community; and to prevent an outbreak of conflict. [[HL2983](#)]

Lord Collins of Highbury: Sudan's displacement crisis is the largest in the world. 11 million people have been forcibly displaced and over 900,000 refugees and returnees have arrived in Chad. The UK recognises the severity of the crisis and has provided £55.8m to support the response in Eastern Chad since the outbreak of the conflict in April 2023. We have also played a significant role in drawing international attention to the conflict, notably through the Duchess of Edinburgh's visit to Adre, Eastern Chad, in October this year, where she met with refugees crossing the border.

Train Operating Companies: Nationalisation

Asked by *Lord Moylan*

To ask His Majesty's Government which train operating companies they intend to bring under public ownership first, following the introduction of the Passenger Railway Services Bill. [[HL2760](#)]

Lord Henty of Richmond Hill: The Secretary of State announced on 4 December that, under the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Act 2024, South Western Railway's services will transfer into public ownership on 25 May 2025, followed by c2c's on 20 July 2025 and Greater Anglia's in autumn 2025.

Transport: Cornwall

Asked by *Lord Patten*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the adequacy of road and rail links between Cornwall and London. [[HL2766](#)]

Lord Henty of Richmond Hill: This Government recognises that the people of Cornwall need reliable transport links with London and other parts of the country. That is why we have acted quickly to pass the Passenger Railways Services (Public Ownership) Bill, a key milestone towards the establishment of Great British Railways to bring our railways back under public ownership and deliver services to passengers that we can be proud of. We announced additional funding for roads in the Autumn statement. This provides Local Authorities with stable foundations before the Spending Review statement next year which will build on that provision and help us achieve our five key strategic transport priorities.

UK Internal Trade: Northern Ireland

Asked by *Lord Dodds of Duncairn*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether goods manufactured in China that are moved by a company in Great Britain to a company in Northern Ireland for sale in Northern Ireland are subject to (1) any EU tax or duty, or (2) any compliance procedures, under the Windsor Framework. [[HL3037](#)]

Lord Livermore: Goods manufactured outside the UK or EU that are in free circulation in Great Britain are only subject to duty when moved to Northern Ireland if they are considered to be 'at risk' of entering the EU. Goods that are subject to trade defence measures are treated as 'at risk'.

In these scenarios, the Windsor Framework provides a means to offset these costs. If goods do not subsequently enter the EU, the Duty Reimbursement Scheme can be used to claim back the full amount. The Customs Duty Waiver Scheme is also available for traders to waive the duties up to certain thresholds, regardless of the ultimate destination of the goods.

UK Trade with EU: Import Controls

Asked by *Lord Frost*

To ask His Majesty's Government what are their negotiating objectives for their proposed sanitary and phytosanitary agreement with the European Union. [[HL2822](#)]

Baroness Hayman of Ullock: The Government is committed to resetting relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union. As part of this reset, we believe the trading relationship can be improved. The UK and the EU are each other's largest agri-food markets; in 2023, 57% (£14 billion) of UK agri-food exports were to EU countries, and 72% (£43.8 billion) of UK agri-food imports were from EU countries. We have said we will seek to negotiate a veterinary/ sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement to boost trade and deliver benefits to businesses and consumers on both sides.

Asked by *Lord Frost*

To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are negotiating on a draft text of any kind relating to their proposed sanitary and phytosanitary agreement with the European Union. [[HL2823](#)]

Baroness Hayman of Ullock: The Government is not currently negotiating draft text relating to an SPS agreement with the EU.

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Asked by *Lord Marlesford*

To ask His Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people who are in the UK who crossed the Channel into Britain illegally during

the last ten years, and applied for and were refused asylum. [\[HL2757\]](#)

Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Office publishes statistics on detected small boat arrivals to the UK in the ‘Irregular migration to the UK’ statistics release on gov.uk. Data on asylum applications from small boat arrivals and initial decisions on these applications (including refusals) is published in tables Irr_D02 and Irr_D03 respectively of the ‘[Irregular migration to the UK](#)

[detailed datasets](#)’. The latest data covers January 2018 to June 2024.

The Answer includes the following attached material:

Irregular Migration [irregular-migration-to-the-UK-detailed-dataset-year-ending-jun-2024 (1).xlsx]

The material can be viewed online at:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2024-11-21/HL2757>

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