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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(HANSARD)**

# **HOUSE OF LORDS**

## **WRITTEN STATEMENTS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS**

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

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# Written Statements

Friday, 17 January 2025

## Machinery of Government

[HLWS366]

**Baroness Smith of Basildon:** My Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister has made the following statement:

I am making this statement to bring to the House’s attention the following Machinery of Government change.

On 10 October 2024, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced the creation of the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority. I am today announcing that NISTA will be a joint unit of HM Treasury and the Cabinet Office. This change will bring infrastructure strategy and delivery together to address systemic challenges to growth, and combine the expertise and functions of the Infrastructure and Projects Authority and the National Infrastructure Commission.

To support this, responsibility for all of the Infrastructure and Project Authority’s functions and responsibilities, including the Government’s project delivery expertise and functions, and assurance reviews for the Government’s largest projects, will move from the Cabinet Office to HM Treasury.

The Principal Accounting Officer for NISTA will be the HM Treasury Permanent Secretary. The lead Minister will be the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

This change will be effective from 1 April 2025.

## UK Soft Power Council

[HLWS365]

**Baroness Chapman of Darlington:** I would like to update Parliament on the UK Government’s approach to soft power. The global community faces some of the greatest challenges of our lifetime. Conflict across multiple continents, the climate and nature emergency, the threat of harms flowing from unregulated emerging technologies and their use by hostile states. Our rules-based international order, historically used to tackle these issues, is under attack. To meet these challenges, the UK must collaborate and take action.

Our offer to the world is unique: we are a beacon of democracy underpinned by a talented and independent judiciary. We boast internationally recognised cultural, creative and sporting sectors, vibrant in all four corners of our country and around the world. We have a world-class education system, resilient and revered financial and legal sectors, ground-breaking science, technology and research centres. The impact of the BBC World Service and British Council is unparalleled.

The spirit of the United Kingdom is built on tolerance, fairness, diversity and inclusivity, grounding our approach on values. The UK does not sit still, rather we continue to look at how we can do things differently and find

innovative solutions to the problems we and the world face.

While others seek to weaponise their soft power, we seek to collaborate and forge partnerships: if we are to make progress on the challenges that we face, and create a world that is safer, fairer and more prosperous for all, we must engage the sectors, institutions and networks that together contribute to our success and best project those to the world.

It is no longer viable to rely solely on hard tools. A modern, dynamic, engaged Britain unlocks the power of our strongest assets.

We must use soft power to deliver hard goals.

### *New Soft Power Council*

Today, my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I are launching a new UK Soft Power Council and will convene its inaugural meeting on 15 January.

For the first time, we are bringing together some of the most influential figures across our world-leading sectors in soft power and foreign policy to steer and advise Government.

This Council reflects the depth and breadth of our culture, creative, sports, education and science and technology sectors, and will tap into UK expertise on security, climate and nature, development, and our values and institutions.

This is not just an advisory group. The Soft Power Council will enable us to build stronger partnerships with external organisations at home and abroad, identify opportunities to strengthen our reach and reputation and shore up our influence for a generation.

Core to the Council’s mission is the pursuit of economic growth, ensuring a coherent, strategic, approach to soft power that brings tangible economic benefits to citizens across the UK.

Together the Soft Power Council will help the UK Government shape and drive a new UK Soft Power Strategy that will deliver on our foreign policy priorities, bring momentum to campaigns that deploy our soft power and broaden the reach of the major soft power and foreign policy moments in the global calendar.

We look forward to inviting contributions from the full range of Parliamentarians to support this initiative.

Co-chaired by us as Secretaries of State, the members of the Soft Power Council are:

### *Foreign Policy*

Growth	Dr Linda Yueh	University of Oxford; Royal Commonwealth Society
	Ewan Venters	CEO, Hauser & Wirth (former CEO, Fortnum & Mason)
	Roland Rudd	Global co-chair, FGS Global; Chair, Tate

Security	Gen Sir Nick Carter	Former Chief of the Defence Staff		Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson	Sport Wales; UK Active; Duke of Edinburgh's Award
	Dr Comfort Ero	International Crisis Group		Debbie Hewitt	Football Association
Europe	Mark Leonard	European Council on Foreign Relations	Education	Vivienne Stern	Universities UK
	Dr Parag Khanna	AlphaGeo	Values and Institutions	Patrick Stevens	Rule of Law Director, International Justice Development
Climate	Richard Deverell	Kew Gardens		Anthony Smith	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
	Dr Vijaya Ramachandran	Breakthrough Institute			
Development <i>Soft Power</i>	Dr Sara Pantuliano	ODI Global		Dame Linda Dobbs	Former UK High Court Judge
Culture	Dr Tristram Hunt	Victoria and Albert Museum	Media	Tom Fussell	BBC Studios
	Lord Mendoza	Historic England	Tourism	Peter Gowers	Europcar; Former CEO, Travelodge
	Fran Hegyi	Edinburgh International Festival	Science and Technology	Professor Helen McCarthy	Queens University Belfast; Chief Science & Technology Adviser, Northern Ireland
	Scott McDonald	British Council			
Creative	Tom Kiehl	UK Music			
	Sir Peter Bazalgette	Royal College of Art			
Sport	Dame Katherine Grainger	UK Sport; University of Glasgow			

# Written Answers

Friday, 17 January 2025

## Antimicrobials: Drug Resistance

Asked by *Lord Harris of Haringey*

To ask His Majesty's Government what work is being undertaken with the devolved administrations to maintain a central risk management process for antimicrobial resistance. [HL3991]

**Baroness Merron:** The 2024 to 2029 antimicrobial resistance (AMR) national action plan (NAP) is a United Kingdom-wide plan, setting out the challenging commitments and targets for the next five years to confront AMR.

The NAP programme is made up of eight implementation programmes that are responsible for delivering their implementation plans, which collectively contribute to meeting the commitments within the NAP. Each implementation programme records and manages risks within their own governance structures. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland each have their own implementation programmes that they manage.

Risks that are deemed cross-cutting to the NAP are recorded within the programme's UK-wide risk register, owned by the Department. These cross-cutting risks are monitored and discussed at the two programmes delivery boards, which are responsible for monitoring implementation of the NAP, to determine mitigating actions.

High-level, challenging programme risks can be escalated up to the UK AMR Strategy Board, members of which include senior officials from across the One Health sector and all four nations of the UK, who are responsible for providing strategic direction for mitigating large scale risks that jeopardise overall programme delivery.

## Exercise

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote physical activity as a means of preventing and managing long-term health conditions. [HL4001]

Asked by *Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick*

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that healthcare professionals have the skills and confidence to prescribe physical activity as a treatment and management tool for people living with long-term conditions. [HL4003]

**Baroness Merron:** The Government and the National Health Service recognise the important role of physical activity in the prevention and management of long-term health conditions.

The NHS Better Health Campaign promotes ways for adults, families, and children to move more, and signposts people, including those living with long term conditions and who are ready to build movement back into routines, to digital support like the NHS Active 10 walking app. Local authorities and the NHS also promote and provide services for people living with long term conditions, such as exercise on referral and social prescribing, including access to physical activity interventions, fall prevention, and walking groups.

The Department, with Sport England, has delivered support and training to equip healthcare professionals to enable patients to move more, to improve their physical and mental health. Sport England continues to support work in this area through the Physical Activity Clinical Champions programme, which is currently being piloted in local areas.

NHS England is working closely with partners nationally and locally to explore how the NHS might galvanise support to make physical activity a core part of NHS care, in order to benefit patients, NHS staff, and the wider public.

By empowering clinicians and healthcare professionals with the skills and confidence to discuss and promote physical activity, through integrating it into key clinical pathways and by aligning it with Core20PLUS5 for adults, children, and young people, the NHS could help to transform patient outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

## Hunting

Asked by *Lord Swire*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Matt Longman's relations with the League Against Cruel Sports and their implications for his role as national police lead on hunting. [HL3562]

**Lord Hanson of Flint:** National portfolio leads are a matter for the NPCC.

## Ketamine

Asked by *Lord Weir of Ballyholme*

To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking through public health campaigns to warn people of the dangers of ketamine. [HL4019]

**Baroness Merron:** The Department takes the threat of ketamine and other drugs seriously, and is working with partners across Government to respond to existing and new drug threats, and to reduce and prevent the health harms. We are committed to ensuring that anyone with a drug problem can access the help and support they need. We know that drug treatment is protective, and the number of places in treatment for people who use drugs, other than opiates, is being increased by 30,000.

The Government has a drug information and advice service called Talk to FRANK, which aims to reduce drug misuse and its harms by increasing awareness,

particularly for young people and parents. FRANK offers easy to read information on the risks of using ketamine and mixing it with other substances, and basic harm reduction advice.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has developed a briefing on ketamine for local areas, many of which are already mobilising in response to local need. The OHID also commissions drug education materials to be used by schools in personal, social, health, and economic education.

### Neurodiversity: Prisoners

*Asked by Lord Bradley*

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Merron on 13 January (HL3801), where the information sought in the question is held if not centrally. [HL4023]

**Baroness Merron:** This information is held on a local level by the healthcare providers for each respective prison.

### Peers

*Asked by Lord Strathclyde*

To ask His Majesty's Government which current members of the House of Lords will be affected by the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill as currently drafted. [HL3770]

**Baroness Smith of Basildon:** The House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Bill delivers the manifesto commitment to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. As a result of the Bill, the 92 seats currently reserved for hereditary peers will be removed. The Bill will remove the remaining hereditary peers at the end of the Parliamentary session in which it receives Royal Assent. A list of the current hereditary peers can be found below:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Party/group</i>
Earl Attlee	Conservative
Earl Cathcart	Conservative
Earl Howe	Conservative
Earl Peel	Crossbench
Earl Russell	Liberal Democrat
Lord Aberdare	Crossbench
Lord Addington	Liberal Democrat
Lord Altrincham	Conservative
Lord Ashcombe	Conservative
Lord Ashton of Hyde	Non-affiliated
Lord Bethell	Conservative
Lord Borwick	Conservative
Lord Camoys	Conservative
Lord Carrington	Crossbench
Lord Colgrain	Conservative
Lord Crathorne	Conservative
Lord Cromwell	Crossbench
Lord de Clifford	Crossbench
Lord De Mauley	Conservative
Lord Fairfax of Cameron	Conservative
Lord Freyberg	Crossbench
Lord Geddes	Conservative
Lord Glenarthur	Conservative
Lord Grantchester	Labour
Lord Greenway	Crossbench
Lord Hacking	Labour
Lord Hampton	Crossbench
Lord Harlech	Conservative
Lord Henley	Conservative
Lord Inglewood	Non-affiliated
Lord Londesborough	Crossbench
Lord Lucas	Conservative
Lord Mancroft	Conservative
Lord Meston	Crossbench
Lord Mountevans	Crossbench
Lord Moynihan	Conservative
Lord Northbrook	Conservative
Lord Ravensdale	Crossbench
Lord Reay	Conservative
Lord Remnant	Conservative
Lord Roborough	Conservative
Lord Russell of Liverpool	Crossbench
Lord Sandhurst	Conservative
Lord St John of Bletso	Crossbench
Lord Strathcarron	Conservative
Lord Strathclyde	Conservative
Lord Thurlow	Crossbench
Lord Trefgarne	Conservative
Lord Trevethin and Oaksey	Crossbench
Lord Vaux of Harrowden	Crossbench
Lord Wrottesley	Conservative
The Duke of Montrose	Conservative
The Duke of Norfolk	Crossbench
The Duke of Somerset	Crossbench
The Duke of Wellington	Crossbench



<i>Title</i>	<i>Party/group</i>
The Earl of Arran	Conservative
The Earl of Caithness	Conservative
The Earl of Clancarty	Crossbench
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	Crossbench
The Earl of Courtown	Conservative
The Earl of Devon	Crossbench
The Earl of Dundee	Conservative
The Earl of Effingham	Conservative
The Earl of Erroll	Crossbench
The Earl of Glasgow	Liberal Democrat
The Earl of Kinnoull	Crossbench
The Earl of Leicester	Conservative
The Earl of Lindsay	Conservative
The Earl of Liverpool	Conservative
The Earl of Lytton	Crossbench
The Earl of Minto	Conservative
The Earl of Oxford and Asquith	Crossbench
The Earl of Rosslyn	Crossbench
The Earl of Shrewsbury	Conservative
The Earl of Stair	Crossbench
Viscount Astor	Conservative
Viscount Bridgeman	Conservative
Viscount Brookeborough	Crossbench
Viscount Camrose	Conservative
Viscount Colville of Culross	Crossbench
Viscount Craigavon	Crossbench
Viscount Eccles	Conservative
Viscount Goschen	Conservative
Viscount Hanworth	Labour
Viscount Stansgate	Labour
Viscount Thurso	Liberal Democrat
Viscount Trenchard	Conservative
Viscount Waverley	Crossbench
Viscount Younger of Leckie	Conservative

### Prostate Cancer: Ethnic Groups

*Asked by Lord Watson of Wyre Forest*

To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the higher rates of advanced prostate cancer diagnoses among black men. [HL4016]

**Baroness Merron:** A £42 million United Kingdom-wide trial, the TRANSFORM trial led by Prostate Cancer UK with £16 million funding from the Government, is

under way and aimed at helping find best ways of detecting prostate cancer in men, even if they are not displaying any symptoms and could save thousands of lives.

This study will also aim to address some of the inequalities that exist in prostate cancer diagnosis by targeting black men in trial recruitment. This is vital as previous trials have not included enough black men to adequately demonstrate the harms and benefits of screening for this group specifically, despite their significantly higher risk.

### Social Services: Recruitment

*Asked by Lord Willis of Knaresborough*

To ask His Majesty's Government how they intend to increase the adult social care workforce. [HL3969]

**Baroness Merron:** The adult social care workforce is growing, with Skills for Care data reporting that in 2023/24 there were 1.705 million filled posts, an increase of 70,000 filled posts compared with 2022/23.

The independent commission, announced on 3 January, will look at how we recruit, retain, and recognise the adult social care workforce. We are already taking action through a number of reforms including introducing the first ever Fair Pay Agreement and expanding the Care Workforce Pathway (the new national career structure) to make the adult social care sector more attractive. We will support care workers to safely take on further duties to deliver delegated healthcare activities, with the right training and clinical governance in place.

In September 2024, we launched the Adult Social Care Learning and Development Support Scheme, which allows employers to claim for funding for training courses and qualifications on behalf of eligible staff. We are also launching a national recruitment campaign in February 2025 to encourage suitable candidates to apply for immediate vacancies by highlighting the varied and rewarding work available.

### Sudan: Crimes against Humanity

*Asked by Lord Alton of Liverpool*

To ask His Majesty's Government what representations they intend to make to the government of the United States regarding its decision to declare that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militias have committed genocide in Sudan; and to sanction RSF leader Mohammad Hamdan Daglo for his role in systematic atrocities committed against the Sudanese people. [HL3863]

**Lord Collins of Highbury:** The UK continues to work closely with the US in support of efforts to bring peace to Sudan. The long-standing position of successive UK Governments is that it is for courts to decide whether genocide has occurred. While the UK takes a different approach to the US on determination, no-one should

doubt that we also condemn what is happening in the strongest terms. Irrespective of any such determination, it is clear that atrocities have been committed in this conflict. Those responsible must be held to account. We are using the tools available to us to act, including in partnership with the US. We keep sanctions under review but do not speculate on prospective sanctions designations as this would undermine their effectiveness.

Since the outbreak of conflict in 2023, the UK has frozen the assets of nine commercial entities linked to the parties involved in the conflict. On 8 November 2024, the United Nations Security Council also sanctioned two Rapid Support Forces commanders involved in perpetrating ethnically motivated atrocities in Sudan.



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