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Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 31 October 2012

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billing

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time taken by her Department to settle invoices to external suppliers or contractors was in each of the last three financial years. [125307]

Mike Penning: My Department publishes prompt payment statistics in its Annual Report and Accounts each year.

Comparable figures for the Northern Ireland Office as it is now configured are not available following the completion of the devolution of policing and justice functions on 12 April 2010. In 2010-11, the Department paid 97% of suppliers within 10 days; 43% of payments were made within five days. In 2011-12, the Department paid 97% of all suppliers within 10 days, and 30% within five days.

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to which magazines, journals and newspapers her Department subscribes. [125350]

Mike Penning: My Department does not subscribe to any publications but have the following newspapers delivered for which we are billed monthly by the newsagents:

Irish Independent (Monday to Sunday)

Irish Times (Monday to Saturday)

Daily Mail (Monday to Friday)

The Telegraph (Monday to Friday)

Financial Times (Monday to Friday)

The Guardian (Monday to Friday)

The Independent (Monday to Friday)

The Sun (Monday to Friday)

The Times (Monday to Friday)

The Spectator (Monday to Friday)

Belfast Telegraph (Monday to Saturday)

News Letter (Monday to Saturday)

Irish News (Monday to Saturday)

The NI Daily Mirror (Monday to Friday)

The Sunday Life

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Billing

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken by his Department to settle invoices to external suppliers or contractors was in each of the last three financial years. [125304]

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Brandon Lewis: The following table shows the average time taken by the Department for Communities and Local Government to settle invoices to suppliers during the last three financial years.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Average time (in days)</i>
2009-10	6.29
2010-11	4.33
2011-12	4.15

The invoices included in the table are for all suppliers as DCLG does not distinguish between supplier types.

Citizens Advice Bureaux: Cumbria

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effect of changes to local government funding on the provision of citizens' advice services in Cumbria. [125053]

Jo Swinson: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There are no Cumbria-wide funding issues that I am aware of. However, there are two issues relating to funding of services provided by Barrow Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) and the outreach service provided by Citizens Advice South Lakeland. I understand the local authority are considering—but yet to decide—a major reduction in funding to Barrow CAB over the next three years. Faced with that threat the CAB are currently finalising a three year plan supported by the umbrella body, Citizens Advice, on how services can continue to be delivered in light of any reduction in funding. In the case of the outreach service delivered by Citizens Advice South Lakeland, the bureaux have been experiencing some financial difficulties but this is not due to any cut in local authority funding and they have been working closely with Cumbria Rural to ensure a service will continue to be delivered to clients in the district.

Energy Performance Certificates

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the Energy Performance Certificate. [125961]

Mr Foster: My Department carried out a review jointly with the Department for Energy and Climate Change in 2011 of the energy performance of buildings regime, including Energy Performance Certificates. Among other things, the joint review recommended that the content and format of the Energy Performance Certificate should be improved to make it more user friendly and of greater benefit to consumers. A redesigned Energy Performance Certificate was released on 1 April this year. The key features of the new look Certificate are:

a much more professional design with better use of graphics and white space;

more consumer-friendly with plain English used throughout;

a very clear emphasis on the financial costs and benefits of various measures; and

clear signposting to the Green Deal and information on which measures qualify for Green Deal finance.

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Fire Services

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of each fire and rescue service in England and Wales in 2011-12. [125934]

Brandon Lewis: We do not undertake a cost to the public purse calculation. However my Department collects and publishes expenditure and grant information of all local authorities in England, including fire and rescue authorities; this information is found at the following web link. The cost to the public purse of fire and rescue services in Wales is a devolved matter.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue-local-data-budget201112>

Growth and Infrastructure Bill

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish the (a) impact assessment and (b) equality impact assessment relating to the Growth and Infrastructure Bill. [125415]

Nick Boles: In line with the new Regulatory Policy Committee procedures, published in August 2012, we have assessed whether provisions within the Bill are deregulatory or low-cost regulatory measures (with an impact on business below £1 million per annum) for verification by the Regulatory Policy Committee. We will publish impact assessments for the Bill provisions shortly. In accordance with the public sector equality duty, we have considered whether any of our policies or the way that these policies are carried out will affect people who share relevant protected characteristics in different ways from people who do not share them, and have concluded that they do not.

Homelessness

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in each age category, who were accepted as homeless, had lost their last settled home because their parents were no longer willing or able to provide accommodation in each of the last five years. [125499]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is not available because the relevant local authority return (the quarterly P1E return) does not go into the necessary level of detail.

The P1E return collects figures for:

the total number of homelessness acceptances during each quarter broken down by age category, and

the total number of homelessness acceptances during each quarter broken down by the main reason for the loss of last settled home, including cases where parents were no longer able or willing to provide accommodation;

but it does not collect figures broken down by both of these factors at the same time.

We secured an additional £70 million last year to help local agencies prevent and tackle homelessness. This includes the £20 million Homelessness Transition Fund to support the national, roll out of No Second Night Out, tackle rough sleeping and protect vital front line

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services and the £20 million Single Homelessness Prevention Fund to help ensure single homeless people get access to good housing advice.

This is on top of the £400 million we are investing for homelessness prevention over four years (2011-12 to 2014-15), which includes £10.8 million to help single people access private rented sector accommodation.

Housing

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the likely distributional effect of the top-slicing of the revenue support grant for local authorities to fund the New Homes Bonus in (a) the South East, (b) the South West, (c) the North East, (d) the North West, (e) Yorkshire and the Humber, (f) the East Midlands, (g) the West Midlands, (e) the East of England and (f) London; [125801]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction of control totals for local authorities for (a) the safety net and (b) capitalisation. [125917]

Brandon Lewis: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not attempted to calculate how the support we are proposing to provide to local government for the safety net, capitalisation and the New Homes Bonus would have been distributed if these amounts were not deducted from the overall resource that will go to local government. The proposals set out in our recent Technical Consultation on Business Rates Retention have been clear that any funding that they do not require for these purposes will be returned to each authority pro rata to the Start-Up Funding Assessment.

Non-domestic Rates

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local billing authorities have used their powers under the Localism Act 2011 to implement discounts on business rates; and if he will estimate the average cost incurred by authorities which have exercised those powers. [125893]

Brandon Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. The business rate discounts in the new Enterprise Zones are being delivered through these Localism Act powers.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of under-occupation in social housing is in each (a) local authority area and (b) constituency. [125987]

Mr Prisk: Under-occupancy for England is estimated using the English Housing Survey. Due to limited sample sizes the results are not robust at local authority area and constituency level.

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CABINET OFFICE

Charity Commission

Mrs Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make an assessment of whether the Charity Commission treats all religions and religious sects on an equal basis. [125869]

Mr Hurd: The registration of charities is a matter for the Charity Commission. As with all public bodies, the commission has a legal duty to apply relevant equalities legislation.

Cleaning Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will make it his policy to require all cleaning contracts held by his Department to stipulate that the cleaning products used and their ingredients should not have been tested on animals. [125011]

Miss Chloe Smith: The Cabinet Office's total facilities management contract for its central London estate is with ETDE. ETDE

already use cleaning chemicals which are not tested on animals. The cleaning contract for buildings outside of central London is with Mitie who do not use products tested on animals.

Products used in cleaning services supplied to the Department are required to comply with the Government Buying Standards co-ordinated by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs:

<http://sd.defra.gov.uk/advice/public/buying/products/cleaning/>

Families

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of families with four or more children in (a) the UK and (b) Scotland. [126074]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Glen Watson, dated October 2012:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of families with four or more children in (a) the UK and (b) Scotland. (126074)

The number and size of families in the UK can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey. Estimates are provided for families with at least one dependent child. Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.

There are 265,000 families with four or more dependent children in the UK in 2012, and 17,000 in Scotland.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Internet

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance his Department has issued to other Departments on the logging of departmental internet usage. [125931]

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Mr Hurd: Individual Departments are responsible for monitoring internet usage themselves and should have acceptable use policies in place for their staff.

The Government Digital Service has published guidance on the use of social media, which is available online at:

<https://update.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/social-media-guidance>

Plymouth Brethren

Mrs Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the Charity Commission's decision to exclude the Plymouth Brethren from charitable status; and if he will make a statement. [125868]

Mr Hurd: The trust in question has lodged an appeal against the Charity Commission's decision and the outcome of the appeal is awaited.

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to which magazines, journals and newspapers his Department subscribes. [125351]

Miss Chloe Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Public Appointments

Mr Meacher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public sector appointments are currently subject to confirmation hearings by Select Committees; and which appointments were subject to such hearings in the last two years, by date, appointee and select committee. [125543]

Mr Maude [*holding answer 30 October 2012*]: A list of pre-appointment and confirmation hearings was published in the House of Commons Liaison Committee report 'Select Committees and Public Appointments the Government's response'. (September 2012):

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmliain/394/394.pdf>

Research

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department spent on research and development in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10, (c) 2010-11 and (d) 2011-12; and how much he plans to spend in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15. [121890]

Mr Maude: Prior to financial year 2011-12 research and development expenditure was not separately identified in the Cabinet Office accounts. £1.71 million was spent on research and development in 2011-12 and £1.51 million has been

allocated in 2012-13. Allocations have not been set for future years.

Sickness Absence

Mike Freer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on how many days on average staff of his Department in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in each of the last 12 months. [125654]

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Mr Maude: As part of this Government's transparency programme, the Cabinet Office publishes details of staff sick absences on the departmental website at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/absence-data>

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) with reference to her Department's recent announcement that £377 million of the £480 million uncommitted contingency funding for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics will be paid to her Department, whether she gave consideration to using this money to reimburse the Big Lottery Fund; [125476]

(2) with reference to her Department's recent announcement that £480 million of uncommitted contingency funding for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics remains unspent, if she will refund £425 million to the Big Lottery Fund immediately rather than following the sale of Olympic assets. [125477]

Hugh Robertson: The forecast underspend of £377 million in the public sector funding package (PSFP) for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, is the forecast of unspent funds held by HM Treasury as the Government's contribution to the PSFP. These unspent funds will be retained by HM Treasury. The national lottery distributors, including the Big Lottery Fund, will benefit from funds remaining in the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund, not required for the Olympic and Paralympic programme, and will also receive just over £69 million from the receipts of sale of the Olympic Village, expected in 2014. The position remains that the national lottery distributors will be reimbursed for their additional contribution of £675 million to the PSFP from the receipts of sale of land on the Olympic Park.

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to which magazines, journals and newspapers her Department subscribes. [125353]

Hugh Robertson: The magazines, journals and newspapers subscribed to by this Department, are as follows:

Newspapers

The Financial Times

The Guardian

The Independent

The Daily Mail(1)

The Daily Express(1)

The Daily Mirror(1)

The Sun(1)

The Times(1)

The Daily Telegraph(1)

The Observer

The Sunday People

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Magazines/Journals

The Spectator

The New Statesman

Private Eye

Broadcast Magazine

The Economist

The Art Review

The Stage

Building Design

Local Government Chronicle

The Voice

The Eastern Eye

House magazine

House of Lords Daily Business

House of Lords Daily Hansard

(1) Includes Sunday editions

TREASURY

Aerospace Industry

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2012, *Official Report*, column 502W, on the aerospace industry, what fiscal steps his Department is taking to assist the industry. [125804]

Sajid Javid: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 25 October 2012, *Official Report*, column 1013W.

Infrastructure

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost was of all Government-funded infrastructure projects in the (a) London area and (b) rest of the UK in the last five years. [124482]

Danny Alexander: Between 2005 and 2010 around £113 billion was invested in infrastructure through both the private and public sectors. Approximately 18% of this figure was invested in water and flood management, 1% in waste, 37% in transport, 20% in energy and 24% in communications.

The National Infrastructure Plan 2011 set out the Government's expectation that over £250 billion of public and private investment in infrastructure is planned to 2015 and beyond. Capital expenditure by the Department for Transport, for example, has increased in the last five years from £6.7 billion in 2007-08 to £8.2 billion in 2012-13, helping to deliver the road and rail networks that the UK needs.

The Government do not compile information at a sub-national level, so figures for investment in London are not available.

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which magazines, journals and newspapers his Department subscribes. [125344]

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Sajid Javid: HM Treasury subscribes to the following magazines, journals and newspapers:

AGRA Facts

Banker

Bloomberg Business Week

Centre for Economics Policy and Research

Commercial Motor Thu ,

Daily Express M-F

Bloomberg Business Week

Commercial Motor Thu

Daily Express M-F

Daily Express SAT

Daily Mail M-F

Daily Mail SAT

Daily Mirror M-F

Daily Mirror Sat

Daily Telegraph M-F

Daily Telegraph Sat

EBSCO Host Databases

Economist

Estates Gazette

European Voice

Factiva

Farmers Weekly Fri

Financial Times M-F

Financial Times Sat

Guardian M-F

Guardian Sat

Independent M-F

Independent on Sunday

Independent Saturday

Inframation

International Herald Tribune

Investors Chronicle

ISSUU

Le Monde M-F

Local Government Chron Fri

Mail on Sunday

Motor Transport Thu

New Statesman Thu

News of the World

Observer

Private Eye Wed F/N

Prospect

Scotsman M-F

Spectator

Sun M-F

Sun Sat

Sunday Express

Sunday Mirror

Sunday People

Sunday Telegraph

Sunday Times

Taxation Thu

Times M-F

Times Education Supp Fri

Times Sat

Wall Street Journal M-F

Weekly Fin News

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Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade publications in the last 12 months. [125754]

Sajid Javid: During 2011-12 the Department spent £41,753 on newspapers, periodicals and trade publications.

Taxation: Multinational Companies

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes to the controlled foreign companies rules will come into force (a) on 1 January 2013 and (b) at a given later date; if he will estimate the reduction in tax receipts to the Exchequer arising from each of these changes in each of the next five years; and if he will estimate the loss of tax receipts to developing countries arising from these changes in each of the next five years. [125845]

Mr Gauke: The Government are introducing a modernised controlled foreign company regime that strikes the right balance between making the corporate tax system more competitive and providing adequate protection of the UK tax base. The regime will apply to companies which artificially divert UK profits to low tax jurisdictions to avoid UK tax.

Changes to the controlled foreign companies (CFC) rules were legislated in Finance Act 2012 and come into force on 1 January 2013.

The total cost of changes to the CFC rules is set out in the Budget 2012 policy costings document available on the HM Treasury website:

http://cdn.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget2012_policy_costings.pdf

The Government have not undertaken an assessment of the effect on developing countries of the proposed changes to the CFC rules as these rules are designed to protect the UK Exchequer by preventing artificial diversion of UK profits.

Any assessment would need to focus primarily on the nature of tax regimes of other countries, making it an assessment not of our tax rules but the tax rules of other countries and their application to the relevant subsidiaries of UK headed groups.

While the Government do not think that any such assessment would be feasible, we are committed to helping developing countries to build capacity and to access tax information on which they can act to collect the tax that they are due.

The strengthening of tax administration in developing countries is a key issue in tax and development and the Government is committed to supporting developing countries access sustainable sources of revenue.

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to prevent international companies using (a) intra-group debt financing, (b) transfer pricing, including of intangibles such as intellectual property, (c) royalty payments or franchise fees for use of brands, designs or trademarks and (d) havens such as Switzerland to move funds out of Europe without incurring a

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withholding tax; and what estimate he has made of the annual loss to the Exchequer arising from the use of such schemes. [125918]

Mr Gauke: The Government are alert to the risk that some companies may try to structure their affairs so that profits from UK-based economic activity are not taxed here. The UK system of taxing multinational business is based on internationally agreed principles that determine how much profit each country should tax. The UK works closely with other jurisdictions to share information and ensure a more effective approach to cross-border tax avoidance. The UK has specific tax rules to combat tax avoidance by international companies. HMRC will investigate and challenge transfer pricing arrangements where appropriate. For example, transfer pricing inquiries have generated intervention yield of £4 billion over the last four years. The UK supports international action on base erosion and profit-shifting, which has been endorsed by the G20.

VAT

Mr Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to prevent avoidance of VAT by internet, telephone and mail order companies delivering goods and services to customers in the UK. [125939]

Mr Gauke: UK VAT is due on goods sold via mail order (internet or phone) to UK consumers by a business in another EU member state where their sales into the UK exceed £70,000 a year. UK VAT is also due on goods bought from a non-EU business, except where the value is less than £15. In April 2012, this £15 relief was withdrawn for goods imported from the Channel Islands to end the exploitation of this relief, which had been used on an increasingly large scale to sell low value goods into the UK. HMRC and Border Force carry out risk based compliance work to ensure that the UK VAT rules are being applied correctly to mail order goods.

Electronic services supplied to UK consumers by a non-EU business are liable to UK VAT. HMRC carry

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out random checks on these supplies to ensure that the correct amount of UK VAT is being paid.

Electronic services supplied to UK consumers by a business in another EU member state are currently liable to VAT in that member state, though from 2015, these supplies will be liable to UK VAT. Where HMRC consider that any business is currently seeking to avoid UK VAT by purporting to make the supply from another EU member state, they will carefully scrutinise the arrangements and where appropriate, challenge them to ensure fairness for the UK taxpayer.

Welfare Tax Credits: Cumbria

John Woodcock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in (a) Barrow and Furness constituency and (b) Cumbria were in receipt of (i) child tax credit and (ii) working tax credit in the 2011-12 financial year; [125423]

(2) how many families in (a) Barrow and Furness constituency and (b) Cumbria were in receipt of working tax credit on (i) 1 September 2011 and (ii) 1 September 2012. [125334]

Mr Gauke: The information for 2011-12 tax year has not yet been published (it is due to be released in May 2013). However, information for 2010-11 tax year is available.

This information is published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised annual awards. Geographical analysis." Information for 2010-11 tax year can be found here:

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child-wtc-geo-may12.xls>

In this publication, the number of families in receipt of child tax credit—(CTC) and working tax credit (WTC) in Barrow and Furness constituency can be found in Table 3. The corresponding number for the local authority of Cumbria can be found in Table 2.

For convenience, these figures have been reproduced in the following tables:

Table 2: Average number of benefiting families in local authority of Cumbria, 2010-11

<i>In-work families (Thousand)</i>						
<i>With children</i>						
		<i>Receiving CTC only</i>			<i>With no children</i>	
	<i>Receiving WTC and CTC</i>	<i>More than the family element</i>	<i>Family element or less</i>	<i>Of which, lone parents</i>	<i>Receiving WTC only</i>	<i>Total in-work families</i>
Cumbria	14.7	6.6	16.2	8.8	5.6	43.1

Table 3: Average number of benefiting in Barrow and Furness parliamentary constituency, 2010-11

<i>In-work families (Thousand)</i>						
<i>With children</i>						
		<i>Receiving CTC only</i>			<i>With no children</i>	
	<i>Receiving WTC and CTC</i>	<i>More than the family element</i>	<i>Family element or less</i>	<i>Of which, lone parents</i>	<i>Receiving WTC only</i>	<i>Total in-work families</i>
Barrow and Furness	2.9	1.2	3.0	1.8	1.1	8.2

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The number of families in receipt of working tax credit in the constituency of Barrow and Furness in September 2011 and 2012 is shown in the following table:

(Thousand)

<i>As at September each year:</i>	<i>Receive WTC and CTC</i>	<i>Receive WTC only</i>
2011	2.5	0.9
2012	2.4	1.0

The number of families in receipt of working tax credit in Cumbria in September 2011 and 2012 is shown in the following

table:

(Thousand)

As at September each year:	Receive WTC and CTC	Receive WTC only
2011	13.6	5.0
2012	13.1	5.0

TRANSPORT

Billing

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time taken by his Department to settle invoices to external suppliers or contractors was in each of the last three financial years. [125301]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport and its agencies collect prompt payment performance measured against targets specified by the Government. These are as follows:

Percentage of supplier invoices paid within 30 working days of receipt (target 98%)

Percentage of supplier invoices paid within 5 working days of receipt (target 80%).

The percentage of invoices paid in accordance with these targets, covering the twelve months to September 2012, is published on the Department's website at the following address:

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/prompt-payment-statistics/statistics.pdf>

The percentage of invoices paid to the same targets for the last two years are as follows:

	5 days %	30 days %
2010-11	86.10	99.63
2011-12	93.12	99.66

Cleaning Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to require all cleaning contracts held by his Department to stipulate that the cleaning products used and their ingredients should not have been tested on animals. [125020]

Norman Baker: Central Departments must ensure they meet the minimum mandatory specifications set out in the Government Buying Standards. The Department

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for Transport complies with that policy for the purchase of cleaning products and intends to continue to do so.

The Government Buying Standards for cleaning products do not currently cover testing on animals, but this is something we would welcome and this Department has in fact raised this issue with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which owns the Standards.

High Speed 2 Railway Line

Mrs Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the application of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' National Ecosystem Assessment to the HS2 project. [126192]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department for Transport uses a standard appraisal methodology for all projects, known as WebTAG, which already includes an assessment of environmental effects such as noise and air quality within it.

WebTAG is routinely updated on an annual basis. My officials are therefore working closely with colleagues in the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to see how the recent National Ecosystem Assessment could inform WebTAG's development.

High Speed 2 Railway Line: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mrs Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason no value was assigned to the designation of areas of outstanding natural beauty in the valuation of the potential impact on landscape of the HS2 project. [126183]

Mr Simon Burns: The value of undeveloped land is defined by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). More information on DCLG's methodology can be found here:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/158136.pdf>

Between the M25 and Amersham the land affected by HS2 received a modest valuation because HS2 is in tunnel in this

section. However, from Amersham to the Chilterns Northern Edge the landscape was valued the highest per hectare along the entire HS2 route.

Metal Theft

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents there have been of theft of metal from railway lines in each quarter since January 2011. [125419]

Norman Baker: Network Rail have advised that the numbers of metal theft incidents on the rail network which have affected performance in each quarter are as follows:

Number

2011 Q1 286

2011 Q2 275

2011 Q3 325

2011 Q4 154

2012 Q1 100

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2012 Q2 97

2012 Q3 79

2012 Q4 12 (to date)

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of the metal in cables stolen from railway lines in each quarter since January 2011. [125793]

Norman Baker: This information is not held by Network Rail or the Department. However, the value of the stolen metal is thought to be a small fraction of the cost of the resulting disruption to train services. The cost to Network Rail of compensating operators for delays caused by metal theft in 2011/12 alone was some £12 million.

Network Rail: Pay

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the highest individual amount agreed to be paid as a retention bonus to a Network Rail director is over the next three years; [126130]

(2) to how many executive directors Network Rail has agreed to pay a retention bonus over the next three years; [126131]

(3) how much Network Rail has agreed to pay in retention bonuses to directors over the next three years; [126132]

(4) whether the Office of Rail Regulation has agreed to each retention bonus due to be paid to directors of Network Rail in the next three years; [126190]

(5) whether retention bonuses paid at Network Rail will be paid in addition to existing annual and long-term bonus schemes due to be paid as part of Network Rail's management Incentive Plan; [126259]

(6) what recent assessment he has made of the level of bonus payments paid to directors at Network Rail; [126260]

(7) whether he has assessed the appropriateness of further bonus payments being made to Network Rail executive directors in addition to those agreed as part of the Management Incentive Plan; [126261]

(8) whether he had discussions with Network Rail in advance of its Remuneration Committee agreeing that £11.7 million would be allocated for potential payments to Network Rail executive directors in bonus payments under the Management Incentive Plan. [126281]

Mr Simon Burns: Network Rail is a private sector, not-for-dividend, company limited by guarantee. As such, decisions on executive remuneration are an issue for the company's Remuneration Committee and the members that collectively hold it to account. It is for the independent Office of Rail Regulation to ensure that Network Rail's management incentive plan is compatible with its licence condition on executive remuneration.

The previous Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), made it clear in early 2012 that the proposed reforms to Network Rail's executive remuneration package

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were unacceptable, and that taxpayers and fare payers would expect that reward was proportionate and reflected performance.

Network Rail has set out its plans to improve its governance and make the company more accountable. These reforms include the appointment of a public interest director to ensure that the interests of taxpayers are articulated in board discussions. Once the public interest director is in place, Network Rail aims to go forward with resolving the long-term issue on executive pay by putting in place a management incentive plan for the years 2012-13 and beyond.

Meantime, Network Rail needs to have sensible interim arrangements in place to reassure key individuals, central to long-term delivery, that good performance on behalf of the company and its customers will be rewarded. Accordingly, at the company's AGM in July 2012, Network Rail's members agreed one-off performance-related retention payments (PRRPs) of £300,000 each for three executive directors. The Office of Rail Regulation has said it is satisfied that the PRRPs are compliant with Network Rail's licence.

Network Rail published details of their plans for executive remuneration in their June 2012 annual report, which is available at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/uploadedFiles/networkrailcouk/Contents/Publications/Annual_report_and_accounts/2012/NRIL_AR2012.pdf

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which magazines, journals and newspapers his Department subscribes. [125335]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not maintain a central list of magazines, journals and newspapers to which it subscribes, but the following lists those publications subscribed to which can be identified without disproportionate cost:

Net CD M

1 Copy Economist

Aircraft

Artists & Illustrators

Auto Express

Autocar

Aviation News

Bike

Book Reflections

Bookseller

Buses Mtly

Campaign

Coach and Bus Weekly

Commercial Motor

Complete Kit Car

Computer Arts

Construction News

Credit New Scientist

Croner Health and Safety (Received electronically)

Croner's Road Transport Operation

Crossed Of Labels June 3Rd

Daily Express

Daily Mail

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Daily Mirror

Daily Telegraph

Die Welt

Digital Camera Magazine

DODS Parliamentary Companion

DODS Vacher's Quarterly

Economist

Employers Law

Equal Opportunities Review

European Voice

Evening Standard

Fairplay

Financial Times

Fishing News

Flight International

Freedom of Information Journal

Guardian

Health & Safety Magazine

Health and Safety Management

Ihs Fairplay

Independent

Independent On Sunday

Independent-Saturday

Jordans Health and Safety

Kit Car Magazine

Le Figaro

Lloyds List

Local Government Chron Fri

Local Transport Today

MAC User Fortnightly

Mail On Sunday

Marketing Week

Modern Railways

Motor Cycle News

Motor Transport

Motorcycle News

Nature

Nautilus Telegraph (Monthly)

Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry

New Law Journal

New Scientist

New Statesman

Observer

PC Answers Cd

PC Pro Cd

PR Week

Practical Boat Owner (Monthly)

Press Gazette

Print Week and Print World

Privacy and Data Protection Journal

Private Eye

Project Online Annual Subscription

Prospect

Racecar Engineering

Rail Business Intelligence

Rail Wed

Railways Illustrated

Scientific American

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Spectator

Stones Justice Manual

Sun

Sunday Mirror

Sunday People

Sunday Telegraph

Sunday Times

Surveyor

The Engineer

The Times

Today's Railways

Tramways Urban Transit

Transport Times

Travel Trade Gazette

Ultimate Highways

Visor Down

What Car

Yachting Monthly

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of (a) dairy cows and (b) beef cattle in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales, (v) Northern Ireland and (vi) each county in England in (A) 1997, (B) 2002, (C) 2007 and (D) 2012; and what proportion of animals in each such

category was slaughtered as a result of contracting tuberculosis. [125436]

Mr Heath [*holding answer 29 October 2012*]: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Quality assurance work is currently being carried out on historic country and county level bovine tuberculosis statistics, including the number slaughtered as a result of contracting tuberculosis, and these are not all currently available. These will be published during the next few months.

Great Britain statistics are available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/landuselivestock/cattletb/national/>

The number of cattle compulsorily slaughtered for bovine tuberculosis in 2012 so far (January to July inclusive) is:

	<i>Number</i>
England	15,705
Wales	5,426
Scotland	198

County level population data for 1997 are not readily available, so 1995 has been presented instead.

The population data for 2007 and 2010 are sourced from the Cattle Tracing Scheme administrative data, rather than statistical data as in earlier years. County data for 2010 relate to commercial holdings only, whereas earlier years relates to all holdings. The data are broadly comparable over time, though the impact of changes may be greater in some counties.

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DEFRA does not have responsibility for the production and publication of livestock population statistics for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of managing the (a) spread and (b) virulence of disease has been in (i) badgers and (ii) cattle in (A) 1997, (B) 2002, (C) 2007 and (D) 2012. [125438]

Mr Heath [*holding answer 29 October 2012*]: The answer could be provided in the requested format only at disproportionate costs exceeding the disproportionate cost limit of £850 for parliamentary questions.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to release data on the location of herds that have had positive tests for bovine tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement; [125501]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on disease control of the policy on non-disclosure of data relating to positive tests for bovine TB; and if he will make a statement. [125504]

Mr Heath: Data on the location of herds that have tested positive to bovine TB are not normally disclosed as they are personal data and to release them would constitute a breach of confidence.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has conducted on bovine TB that covers links between badger populations and declining hedgehog and bee populations. [125808]

Mr Heath: Badgers are an important predator of hedgehogs and both species eat similar invertebrates, such as earthworms and beetles. DEFRA funded research project ZF0531: Ecological consequences of removing badgers from an ecosystem, which assessed the consequences of removing badgers from an ecosystem using information collected as part of the randomised

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badger culling trial. It found that the hedgehog population density increased by more than 100% in the proactive cull areas, in comparison to the no-cull control areas where they experienced a slight decline. This effect was limited to amenity grassland areas in and near villages. It can be concluded that the removal of badgers from an ecosystem, could result in a significant increase in hedgehog abundance.

DEFRA has not funded any research into the link between badger populations and declining bee populations.

Farmers: Income

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect of food prices, fuel costs and wet weather on farm incomes; and if he will make a statement. [125597]

Mr Heath: Provisional estimates of farm incomes for the year ending February 2013, which will include provision for the impact of these factors on farm incomes, will be published on 24 January 2013 at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/publications/fbsincomes/>

Gangmasters Licensing Authority

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many enforcement officers were employed by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in each of the last five years; and how many such officers were based in each region; [125646]

(2) how many enforcement officers will be employed by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority in each of the next three years; and how many such officers will be based in each region. [125783]

Mr Heath: The number of enforcement officers employed by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority over the period in question is set out in the following table. Figures for years 2013-14 and 2014-15 are estimates in the current spending review period.

	<i>Actual</i>						<i>Forecast</i>	
	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>2010-11</i>	<i>2011-12</i>	<i>2012-13</i>	<i>2013-14</i>	<i>2014-15</i>
North	10	10	11	14	13	10	9	8
East	11	8	8	10	10	7	7	6
West	7	6	13	13	12	8	7	6
South-east	0	3	8	10	10	8	8	7
Total	28	27	40	47	45	33	31	27

Notes: 1. Figures are number of staff employed and include one operational head per region. 2. During 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures include compliance officers prior to the role being consolidated with that of enforcement officer. (3) South East region was part of East region prior to 2008-09.

Horses: Databases

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department will take to manage equine disease and abandoned horses following the closure of the National Equine Database in September 2012; and if he will make a statement. [124515]

Mr Heath: The primary function of the horse passport regime is to protect the human food chain. The National Equine Database (NED) did not contain horse location data, nor did it record animal movement data, and was therefore of very limited use in the event of disease incursion or for tackling the problem of abandoned horses, which are generally unidentified.

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It remains a requirement to report suspicion of notifiable equine disease to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. DEFRA aims to eradicate disease swiftly through the use of proportionate movement restrictions and the humane slaughter of infected animals where necessary, returning the country to disease free status as quickly as possible.

On 30 October, Lord de Mauley discussed the apparent rise in the number of abandoned horses with the RSPCA and is considering a number of solutions proposed as a result.

Press: Subscriptions

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which magazines, journals and newspapers his Department subscribes. [125347]

Richard Benyon: The libraries of core DEFRA subscribe to the following magazines, journals and newspapers:

Agra Europe

Agra Facts

Agricultural and Resources Economics Review

Agricultural Economics

Amateur Gardening

American Journal of Agricultural Economics

Animal Pharm

Animal Welfare

Australian Journal of Agricultural Economics

Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics

Cattle and Sheep Market Weekly

Civil Service World

Common Agricultural Policy Monitor

Computeractive

Country Life

Country Living

Country Smallholding

Criminal Law Week

Daily Mail

Daily Telegraph

Ecological Economics

The Economist

Ends Europe Daily

Ends Report

Environment and Development Economics

European Review of Agricultural Economics

Farm Brief

Farm Law

Farm Management Pocketbook

Farmers Guardian

Farmers Weekly

Farming Business

The Field

Financial Times

Fishing News

Food Manufacture

Food News

Forestry and Timber News

Forestry Journal

Freedom of Information Journal

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Fresh Produce Journal

The Grocer

Grow your Own

The Guardian

Harvard Business Review

HGCA Market Data

HGCA Market Report

HGCA Prospects

Horticulture Week

The House

The Independent

Information World Review

Inside Track

Institute of Translation and Interpreting Bulletin

International Grains Council Grain Market Report

Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Journal of Agricultural Economics

Journal of Agricultural Science

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

Journal of Farm Management

Journal of Planning and Environment Law

Journal of Political Economy

Journal of Rural Studies

Land and Business

Land Economics

Law Society's Gazette

Marine Scientist

Meat Trades Journal

Monthly Farm Update

Nature

New Law Journal

New Scientist

New Statesman

Official Journal OnlinePlus

Pig Market Weekly

Poultry World

Public Ledger

Red Machinery Guide

Research Europe

Research Fortnight

Review of Environmental Economics and Policy

Science

Scientific American

The Spectator

The Times

Trout and Salmon

Warmer Bulletin

Waste Management and Research

Weekly Law Reports Parts

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade publications in the last 12 months. [125694]

Richard Benyon: The libraries for core DEFRA spent £85,434 on newspapers, periodicals and trade publications in the 12-month period ending 26 October 2012.

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Sheep: Transport

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the recommended length of time is for Animal Health to conduct an inspection of (a) 1,000 and (b) 3,000 sheep that are in the process of being transported. [125379]

Mr Heath: There are no times laid down for inspections. The time taken is dependent on the circumstances at the time the inspection is undertaken.

Departmental Staff

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's staff are (a) male and (b) female. [126164]

Richard Benyon: As at 30 September 2012, 50.3% of core DEFRA staff were male and 49.7% were female.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of delays to the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Commercialisation Programme on the ability of UK CCS projects to access EU NER 300 funding; [125524]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effect of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Commercialisation Programme funding on the ability of UK CCS projects to access EU NER 300 funding. [125525]

Mr Hayes [*holding answer 29 October 2012*]: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement laid before the House on 30 October 2012, *Official Report*, column 10-12WS, in which the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), provides an update on the Carbon Capture and Storage Commercialisation Programme and NER300 funding.

Climate Change: Developing Countries

Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance the Government are giving as a member of the OECD to help the poorest countries adapt to climate change. [125468]

Lynne Featherstone: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Department for International Development.

The UK reports annually to the OECD Development Assistance Committee on its support to developing countries to cope with the effects of climate change and develop in a low carbon way. The UK's International Climate Fund will provide £2.9 billion of climate finance

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from within existing aid commitments from 2011 to 2015, of which it is aimed that 50% will be for adaptation to climate change.

Energy: Conservation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what audit checks his Department undertakes on money given to energy companies for the (a) warm homes discount and (b) other schemes. [125251]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate Change does not give money directly to energy companies. However, a number of Government policies including the warm homes discount place the obligation of financing the policies onto energy companies. In the case of the warm home discount, the Warm Home Discount Scheme Regulations (2011) require the participating energy companies to provide direct and indirect support worth £1.13 billion over the four years of the scheme. As this funding is mandated by the Government it is classified as public expenditure, but levy funded. It is the Department's responsibility to ensure that this mandatory commitment is delivered and that expenditure to take place in the intended manner. The scheme is administered on behalf of the Department by Ofgem who are responsible for delivering an annual audit programme covering the activities of all participating energy suppliers under the WHD scheme to help assess compliance with regulations. In addition, Ofgem commissions internal audits of its own internal systems and processes for administering the scheme. Further details of how this was achieved for the first year of the scheme can be found in the Warm Home Discount Scheme Annual Report Scheme Year 1, Chapter 7 (page 29):

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/Environment/WHDS/Documents1/WHD_AR_08_Oct_2012.pdf

Ofgem will continue to carry out audits of supplier compliance with the WHD regulations, taking a risk-based approach, across scheme years two-four of the scheme.

There are a number of other schemes which the Department for Energy and Climate Change deliver which are administered by Ofgem, and are subject to similar audit arrangements as for the WHD scheme. All of these schemes are funded indirectly, with the energy companies obligated to provide the funding. Details about the levy mechanism and which schemes are included maybe found at:

www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/funding-support/fuel-poverty/3290-control-fwork-decc-levyfunded-spending.pdf.

In addition to these levies, the CERT and CESP obligations on energy companies operate in a similar fashion and are also managed by Ofgem and subject to a similar audit regime.

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of a delay in the full implementation of the Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation. [125545]

Gregory Barker: On 1 October, the Green Deal legal framework came into force alongside measures to strengthen consumer protection and reduce industry burdens. This

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gave industry the green light to bring the Green Deal energy efficiency market into operation.

It is up to companies to decide the right time and the best way to enter the market. My Department is encouraged by the level of interest so far expressed to the Green Deal oversight and registration body.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the related Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) framework is scheduled to be in place by 1 January 2013, following a short consultation on the application of in-use factors (the in-situ performance of energy efficiency measures) in ECO scoring.

The final Green Deal and ECO impact assessment, published in June this year, assumed that there would be no significant ECO activity before January 2013, therefore we do not expect the delay to the ECO framework to impact our estimated levels of ECO delivery. However, energy companies are able to count any ECO-related activity delivered from 1 October 2012 against their ECO targets.

Green Deal Scheme

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what preparations his Department has made to ensure Green Deal finance is fully operational from January 2013. [125503]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal providers, who are responsible for arranging finance for their Green Deal offers, will be able to offer Green Deal plans to consumers from 28 January 2013, Although the Government will not be providing finance directly under the Green Deal, my officials are working closely with financiers such as The Green Deal Finance Company to encourage the development of the market in the lead up to 28 January 2013 and beyond.

The Department does have responsibility, however, for ensuring that the systems and processes behind the Green Deal, including payment remittance, work effectively for those Green Deal providers who are ready to offer Green Deal plans on 28 January 2013. Therefore my officials have been working with representative market players—including electricity suppliers, prospective Green Deal providers, and financiers—to undertake robust, end-to-end testing of the Green Deal framework. This testing has the objective of ensuring that the systems and processes behind the Green Deal function as intended, providing assurance that key market players will themselves be able to interact with and operate Green Deal systems and processes, and that the marketplace offers a user- and consumer-friendly experience from day one.

Departmental Staff

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his Department's staff are (a) male and (b) female. [126166]

Gregory Barker: The proportion of staff in Department of Energy and Climate Change staff who are:

(a) male is 53.8%; and

(b) female is 46.2%.

This information relates to civil servants as of 30 September 2012.

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HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by the sobriety pilot scheme. [124470]

Jeremy Wright: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

There are two separate pilots of sobriety. A proof of concept pilot testing a sobriety condition as part of an adult conditional caution commenced in May 2012 in five criminal justice areas. The pilot is expected to last for 12 months. In addition, a new alcohol abstinence and monitoring requirement as part of a community sentence was introduced by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 and we are working to establish a pilot, as required by the legislation, before making this available nationwide.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the announcement by the Scottish Government that it will delay implementation of its plans for a minimum unit price for alcohol until legal proceedings against the measure have been settled. [125511]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Alcohol Strategy, published earlier this year, sets out the Government's commitment to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. The Government will consult on this, and a number of other proposals in the strategy, this autumn.

The Government continue to monitor the Scottish Government's progress in implementing a minimum unit price and will consider any issues arising alongside the consultation.

Mr Bradshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to launch the consultation on the level at which a minimum unit price for alcohol should be set in England and Wales. [125513]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Alcohol Strategy, published earlier this year, set out the Government's commitment to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol. The Government will consult on this, and a number of other proposals in the strategy, this autumn.

Arrests

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will conduct an assessment of variations in the level of arrests for specific criminal offences and the reasons for these variations. [125588]

Damian Green: There are no plans for analysis into the variations in arrests for specific offences.

Police forces are only required to provide arrests data aggregated to offence groupings to the Home Office as a part of the annual data requirement.

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Asylum

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in the UK have entered the EU through (a) the UK and (b) another EU member state as their first point of entry. [123461]

Mr Harper: The information is as follows:

(a) Statistics on asylum applications made in the UK can be found at the attached link and are in the following table:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research>

Asylum applications made in the UK

2007	23,431
2008	25,932
2009	24,487
2010	17,916
2011	19,804

In the last five years the following numbers of cases have been accepted for consideration for removal to an EU member state based on evidence received at the time of their asylum application in the UK. The majority of these were considered under the Dublin II Regulation which establishes the principle that only one member state is responsible for examining an asylum application. This guards against abuse of the system by 'asylum shopping', where one person submits multiple asylum claims in different member states, and prevents asylum claims bouncing between member states.

Accepted for consideration for removal from the UK to a safe third country

2007	1,792
2008	2,433
2009	2,693
2010	1,633
2011	1,557

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been returned to another EU member state by destination in each of the last five years. [123463]

Mr Harper: The following table details the number of asylum claimants returned to another EU member state under the Dublin Regulation and destination breakdown:

<i>Member state</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Austria	48	32	31	31	35
Belgium	54	49	47	41	66
Bulgaria	3	5	2	4	8
Cyprus	4	3	1	—	—
Czech Republic	5	10	6	3	4
Denmark	10	9	9	8	13
Estonia	—	—	1	—	—
Finland	3	3	8	3	4
France	141	105	112	114	140
Germany	149	155	138	133	121

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Greece		187	281	238	45	—
Hungary		1	9	19	9	13
Iceland		—	—	—	—	—
Ireland		40	47	57	81	98
Italy		368	418	208	546	372
Latvia		1	—	—	2	—
Lithuania		—	—	1	—	1
Luxembourg		4	4	3	4	1
Malta		18	31	35	11	11
Netherlands		42	24	20	26	20
Norway		25	12	12	30	26
Poland		2	2	2	5	5
Portugal		2	1	6	—	1
Romania		—	3	3	3	4
Slovakia		18	16	11	18	13
Slovenia		1	2	—	2	2

Spain	7	5	8	4	13
Sweden	24	20	24	28	24
Switzerland	—	—	3	11	16
Total	1157	1246	1005	1162	1011

Note: Statistics in tables are based on management information data that is not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. The figures do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

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