
PUBLISHED – THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2024

Questions tabled on Wednesday 4 December 2024

Includes questions tabled on earlier days which have been transferred.

- T Indicates a topical oral question. Members are selected by ballot to ask a Topical Question.
- † Indicates a Question not included in the random selection process but accepted because the quota for that day had not been filled.
- N Indicates a question for written answer on a named day under [S.O. No. 22\(4\)](#).
- [R] Indicates that a relevant interest has been declared.
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Questions for Answer on Thursday 5 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on awarding contracts to companies responsible for the 2017 Grenfell fire. [Transferred] (177593)
- 2 **Neil Duncan-Jordan** (Poole): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of supported lodgings in supporting the aims of the Staying Close programme. [Transferred] (17750)
- 3 **Matt Bishop** (Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he is taking steps to support small businesses with flood damage (a) prevention and (b) mitigation. [Transferred] (17717)
- 4 **Sarah Champion** (Rotherham): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending food labelling legislation so that sourcing information of ingredients is required on pre-packed food and drink products. [Transferred] (17537)
- 5 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will (a) take steps to allow local authorities to set unlimited fines for littering and fly-tipping offences and (b) make an assessment of the financial resources local authority refuse departments have available to collect fly-tipping. [Transferred] (17558)

- 6 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to his Department's Get Britain Working White Paper published on 26 November 2024, whether the 140,000 places for Individual Placement and Support for severe mental illness are in addition to the those announced in the Autumn Statement 2023. [Transferred] (17758)
- 7 **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, how will industry investment play a role in the development of autonomous cyber tooling at the Laboratory for AI Security Research. [R] [Transferred] (17726)
- 8 **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, what his planned timetable is for establishing the Laboratory for AI Security Research. [Transferred] (17730)
- 9 **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, where will the headquarters for the Laboratory for AI Security Research be located. [Transferred] (17731)
- 10 **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, how will the Laboratory for AI Security Research complement the work of existing cyber defence (a) mechanisms and (b) organisations. [R] [Transferred] (17732)
- 11 **Martin Wrigley** (Newton Abbot): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing an independent parking regulator. [Transferred] (17651)
- 12 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to paragraph 2.43 of the Autumn Budget 2024, HC 295, published on 30 October 2024, whether she has made an estimate of the average difference in the business rate bill of a hereditament eligible for retail, hospitality and leisure business rate relief in the 2025-26 financial year, relative to the 2024-25 financial year. [Transferred] (17567)

Questions for Answer on Friday 6 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Solicitor General, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (288)
- 2 **Ellie Chowns** (North Herefordshire): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether (a) templates and (b) guidance for (i) ministerial submissions, (ii) the write round process, (iii) post implementation reviews of legislation and (iv) the preparation of departmental business cases have been updated to refer to the environmental principles duty in section 19(1) of the Environment Act 2021. (252)
- 3 **Ellie Chowns** (North Herefordshire): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, when he plans to update the Cabinet Office Guide to Making Legislation to provide guidance on the environmental principles duty in section 19(1) of the Environment Act 2021. (253)
- 4 **Sir John Hayes** (South Holland and The Deepings): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of working from home on civil service productivity. (4)
- 5 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many civil servants receive private healthcare through work schemes by Department. (227)
- 6N **Jon Pearce** (High Peak): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people on zero-hours contracts in High Peak constituency. [Transferred] (17656)
- 7 **Mark Pritchard** (The Wrekin): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what processes his Department has in place for Parliamentary oversight of Government decisions in (a) a time of war and (b) circumstances where the House of Commons is not functional. (18)
- 8 **Ian Sollom** (St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire): To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to his Department's press release entitled Establishing the Infected Blood Compensation Scheme in Regulations, published on 23 August 2024, what his planned timetable is to publish the second set of regulations to provide for the payment of compensation to affected persons; and whether a target date has been set for when compensation payments will begin. (174)
- 9 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that residents of Ashfield constituency are able to access essential postal services. (121)
- 10 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what the evidential basis is for the levels of Extended Producer Responsibility fee for (a) steel food cans, (b) fibre-based cartons and (c) plastic pouches. (126)

- 11 **Dr Scott Arthur** (Edinburgh South West): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether his trade strategy will support the aims of the Fairtrade movement. [R] (243)
- 12 **Dr Scott Arthur** (Edinburgh South West): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what place food manufacturing will have in the industrial strategy. (244)
- 13 **Dame Harriett Baldwin** (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the consumer goods sector. (37)
- 14 **Dame Harriett Baldwin** (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the infrastructure sector. (38)
- 15 **Dame Harriett Baldwin** (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the retail sector. (39)
- 16 **Dame Harriett Baldwin** (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the professional services sector. (40)
- 17 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (289)
- 18 **Ellie Chowns** (North Herefordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, whether he plans to update guidance for the Better Regulation Framework to include section 19(1) of the Environment Act 2021. (251)
- 19 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps he is taking taken to (a) encourage growth in, (b) support small scale craft produce in and (c) reduce barriers to entry to the spirits industry. (204)
- 20 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of the Spirit Drinks Verification Scheme on small-scale craft production. (205)
- 21 **Melanie Onn** (Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps his Department is taking to protect the accounts of online businesses business from being erroneously temporarily disabled. (62)
- 22 **Martin Wrigley** (Newton Abbot): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, if he will ensure the Post Office withdraws the five-year Transformation Plan published on 13 November 2024.. (179)

- 23 **Stuart Anderson** (South Shropshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to help increase the availability of detached youth work in rural communities. (118)
- 24 **Stuart Andrew** (Daventry): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of forthcoming changes to business rate relief on the viability of grassroots music venues. (29)
- 25 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (290)
- 26 **Sir John Hayes** (South Holland and The Deepings): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to tackle gambling advertisements (a) online and (b) on television which are targeted at young people. (5)
- 27 **Alice Macdonald** (Norwich North): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the provision of community accessible covered tennis courts in underserved communities. (183)
- 28 **Mark Pritchard** (The Wrekin): To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will hold discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on extending the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. (17)
- 29 **Stuart Anderson** (South Shropshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to improve access to further education facilities for young people in rural areas. (120)
- 30 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (291)
- 31 **Dr Beccy Cooper** (Worthing West): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to increase the amount of health-related content in the national curriculum. (277)
- 32 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of Climate Change education in schools. (163)
- 33 **Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhési** (Slough): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many children living in relative poverty are not eligible for free school meals. (102)
- 34 **Mr Lee Dillon** (Newbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing funding to ensure that the Lifelong Links programme can be extended to all children in care. (281)

- 35 **Neil Duncan-Jordan** (Poole): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she plans to increase funding for (a) universal infant free school meals and (b) benefitted free school meals. (325)
- 36 **Neil Duncan-Jordan** (Poole): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will widen the eligibility of free school meals to all children whose parents are in receipt of Universal Credit. (326)
- 37 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the guidance entitled School food standards: resources for schools, published on 26 March 2019, what recent steps her Department has taken to ensure that this guidance is being followed in all (a) locally maintained and (b) multi-academy trust schools. (193)
- 38 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department plans to take further steps to ensure that Government Food Standards are adhered to in (a) locally maintained and (b) Multi Academy Trust schools. (194)
- 39 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when she plans to announce the rates that will be paid to (a) locally maintained and (b) Multi Academy Trust schools for universal infant free school meals this academic year. (195)
- 40 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will conduct a review of the funding model for school meals in (a) locally maintained and (b) Multi Academy Trust schools. (196)
- 41 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an estimate of the number of children who are (a) irregular migrants and (b) were on school rolls on 4 December 2024 broken down by age. (222)
- 42 **Ben Maguire** (North Cornwall): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to support adult education in Cornwall. (323)
- 43 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to help support (a) pre-school, (b) primary school and (c) secondary school-aged children living in poverty other than through the provision of free school meals. (312)
- 44 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that children from low-income families have the same level of access to (a) high-quality education and (b) a range of options for schools as those from higher-income families. (333)
- 45 **Shivani Raja** (Leicester East): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to support young SEND people not in education, employment or training. (161)

- 46 **David Williams** (Stoke-on-Trent North): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to improve (a) recruitment and (b) retention in the further education sector. (200)
- 47 **David Williams** (Stoke-on-Trent North): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to reduce dropout rates of students studying T-Levels. (201)
- 48 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (292)
- 49 **Sarah Champion** (Rotherham): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, with reference to the oral contribution of 6 November 2024 by the Minister for Trade Policy and Economic Security, Official Report column 70WH, how the solar stewardship initiative will support the delivery of the solar roadmap. (56)
- 50 **Mr Lee Dillon** (Newbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing measures to prevent households that have chosen not to install smart meters from higher energy tariffs. (284)
- 51 **Esther McVey** (Tatton): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, which companies have applied to operate a small modular reactor. (35)
- 52 **Jim Shannon** (Strangford): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of including renewable liquid gases in the green taxonomy. (55)
- 53 **Bradley Thomas** (Bromsgrove): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what his Department's timetable is for lowering energy bills for people in Bromsgrove constituency, in the context of the Great British Energy Bill. (236)
- 54 **Stuart Andrew** (Daventry): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to review the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. (28)
- 55 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (293)
- 56 **Sir Geoffrey Cox** (Torridge and Tavistock): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 29 July 2024 to Question 1488 on Agriculture: Food Supply, if he will have discussions with the Prime Minister on holding a farm to fork summit at 10 Downing Street in 2025. (336)
- 57 **Neil Duncan-Jordan** (Poole): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of existing waste incineration facilities for the next five years. (327)

- 58 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that at least 50% of all food purchased by the public sector is (a) locally produced and (b) sustainable. (197)
- 59 **Amanda Hack** (North West Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to implement a national food strategy. (198)
- 60 **Lloyd Hatton** (South Dorset): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Residual Waste Infrastructure Capacity Note will make an assessment of the adequacy of (a) incineration capacity and (b) potential feedstock availability in the light of (i) the statutory target to halve residual waste sent to either incineration or landfill per person by 2042, (ii) the non-combustible nature of some residual waste, and (iii) competing uses for the feedstock. (245)
- 61 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his department is taking to help protect chalk streams from (a) pollution and (b) overextraction. (311)
- 62 **Dan Norris** (North East Somerset and Hanham): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what his planned timetable is for publishing a response to the Fairer Food Labelling consultation, which closed in May 2024. (2)
- 63 **Jenny Riddell-Carpenter** (Suffolk Coastal): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to review the current Shoreline Management Plans. (229)
- 64 **Dave Robertson** (Lichfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the total agricultural budget spend was in Lichfield constituency in each of the last three years for which information is available. (181)
- 65 **Freddie van Mierlo** (Henley and Thame): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the Glis Glis (edible dormouse) on (a) indigenous species and (b) property; and whether he plans to take steps to reduce this impact. (271)
- 66 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he has made an estimate of the number of farmers who will exit the sector as a result of the change to agricultural property relief in the Autumn Budget. (94)
- 67 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the economic contribution of farming to (a) Kent and (b) Faversham and Mid Kent constituency. (95)

- 68 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the changes to inheritance tax on the financial viability of small family farms in (a) Kent and (b) Faversham and Mid Kent constituency. (96)
- 69 **Stuart Anderson** (South Shropshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what recent steps he has taken to help improve broadband connectivity in rural areas. (119)
- 70 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (294)
- 71 **George Freeman** (Mid Norfolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, whether he plans to continue investment in national space data activities. [R] (27)
- 72 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what steps he is taking to support rural community organisations undertaking community-led broadband installations. (207)
- 73 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what community-led rural gigabit broadband projects are in development with Building Digital UK. (208)
- 74 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the Strategic Partnership Arrangement 2024 between Microsoft and the Crown Commercial Service, what guidance is available to civil servants on the use of Microsoft Co-pilot. (44)
- 75 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the Government's response to the Independent Review of the UK's Research, Development and Innovation Organisational Landscape, what steps he has taken to explore a sustainable source of funding for Public Sector Research Establishments to support them to undertake grant-based research funded at less than full economic cost. (46)
- 76 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what the budget is for the Government Office for Technology Transfer in the 2025-26 financial year. (47)
- 77 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what training civil servants in his Department receive on the public sector equality duty. (48)
- 78 **Adam Thompson** (Erewash): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the consultation document entitled Online Safety - fees and penalties: Consultation on implementing fees and penalties under the Online Safety

Act 2023, published on 23 October 2024, what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the proposed fee regime for companies that (a) within scope of the Online Safety Act but are not categorised and (b) do not monetise their user-generated content. (151)

79 **Adam Thompson** (Erewash): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the consultation document entitled Online Safety - fees and penalties: Consultation on implementing fees and penalties under the Online Safety Act 2023, published on 23 October 2024, what discussions he has had with Ofcom on the proposed fee regime for companies that do not have a close supervisory relationship with Ofcom. (152)

80 **Adam Thompson** (Erewash): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing an Online Safety Act fee regime through which the fees charged to individual platforms is equal to the costs to Ofcom for regulating those services. (153)

81 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she is taking to reduce the cost of motor insurance premiums for young drivers in (a) Runcorn postcodes and (b) England. (116)

82 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (295)

83 **David Chadwick** (Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the current level of spending on heavy rail infrastructure in Wales is. (265)

84 **Carla Denyer** (Bristol Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer on 2 December 2024 to Question 15939 on Electric Vehicles: Charging Points, whether she is taking steps to analyse pricing data to compare the cost of using (a) public and (b) home electric vehicle charging points. (176)

85 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she is taking to help improve the accessibility of information at bus stops for disabled people. (50)

86 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 16157 on Railways: Nationalisation, whether her Department plans to maintain regional livery as railway franchises are brought into public ownership. (51)

87 **Priti Patel** (Witham): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Written Statement of 4 December 2024, HCWS281 on Railway Passenger Services, what plans she has to consult (a) Members of Parliament, (b) local authorities, (c) passenger representatives and (d) business representatives before the Greater Anglia franchise is transferred into public ownership in autumn 2025. (30)

- 88 **Priti Patel** (Witham): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Written Statement of 4 December 2024, HCWS281 on Railway Passenger Services, what plans she has to review (a) service quality, (b) ticket pricing, (c) the business model and (d) timetables before the Greater Anglia rail franchise is transferred to public ownership. (31)
- 89 **Priti Patel** (Witham): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Written Statement of 4 December 2024, HCWS281 on Railway Passenger Services, whether she plans to (a) improve (i) step-free access and (ii) rail infrastructure for Greater Anglia services and (b) redevelop stations on the Greater Anglia route. (32)
- 90 **Shivani Raja** (Leicester East): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether her Department has made an estimate of the number of SEND pupils in (a) Leicester East constituency and (b) England impacted by changes to the bus fare cap. (162)
- 91 **Matt Vickers** (Stockton West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether it remains Government policy to provide £978 million funding for transport projects in Tees Valley. (142)
- 92 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of an annual state pension increase for British pensioners living outside the UK. (113)
- 93 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (296)
- 94 **Matt Bishop** (Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to ensure that (a) the most vulnerable and (b) other people living in rural constituencies can easily access her Department's support (i) digitally and (ii) through local offices. (286)
- 95 **Ellie Chowns** (North Herefordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2024 on Question 16304, how many pensioner households who are in receipt of Housing Benefit and who have been identified as being potentially entitled to, but not claiming, Pension Credit her Department has targeted in North Herefordshire constituency; and how many of (a) those pensioner households and (b) the 120,000 pensioner households directly targeted by her Department overall have since claimed Pension Credit. (254)
- 96 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when she plans to publish the feedback from the consultation on the Child Maintenance System. (171)
- 97 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the potential for the Child Maintenance System to be used as a tool of economic abuse. (172)

- 98 **Sarah Gibson** (Chippenham): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the timeframe for PIP award reviews; whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of waiting times for appeal on PIP applicants; and what steps she is taking to tackle PIP appeal backlogs. (249)
- 99 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to provide a breakdown of all religious festivals celebrated by the Department in 2023. (211)
- 100 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of her Department's policy not to initiate fraud investigations under £5,000 on public finances. (212)
- 101 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to help tackle child poverty. (334)
- 102 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will take steps to increase the level of financial support for low-income families with more than two children. (335)
- 103 **Neil O'Brien** (Harborough, Oadby and Wigston): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 2 December 2024 to Question 15704 on Jobcentres and Universal Credit: Telephone Services, how many calls were translated by language code since 2021; and what the cost was of translating calls by language code. (117)
- 104 **Melanie Onn** (Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment his Department has made of the potential importance of business support functionalities by online platforms such as META. (63)
- 105 **Ian Sollom** (St Neots and Mid Cambridgeshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if her Department will publish an evaluation of the pilot scheme on the use of single-named caseworkers by the Child Maintenance Service. (175)
- 106 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of creating a tracking coding system to record people in temporary accommodation that access health services. (108)
- 107 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make assessment of the adequacy of diagnosis times for bowel cancer. (110)
- 108 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) reimbursement schemes and (b) financial assistance programmes for patients seeking private dental care because of NHS delays. (122)
- 109 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what plans his Department has to tackle funding gaps between (a) mental and (b) physical health services. (123)

- 110 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (297)
- 111 **Andrew Bowie** (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what information his Department holds on the number and proportion of 999 calls that were made in Scotland and handled by an Ambulance Service in England and Wales since 2020. (98)
- 112 **Jess Brown-Fuller** (Chichester): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of GP practices use online forms promoted in the Help us Help You advertising scheme. (305)
- 113 **Jess Brown-Fuller** (Chichester): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate his Department has made of the potential cost saving to the public purse of GP's using online appointment forms promoted in the Help Us to Help You advertising scheme (a) in total and (b) per GP. (306)
- 114 **Jess Brown-Fuller** (Chichester): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the FTE staff hours that have been saved (a) in total and (b) per practice as a result of GPs using online forms promoted in the 'Help Us Help You' advertising scheme. (307)
- 115 **Ian Byrne** (Liverpool West Derby): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of vision rehabilitation. (141)
- 116 **Daisy Cooper** (St Albans): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will take steps to ensure the weekly personal expense allowance for those living in care homes is increased by the rate of inflation each financial year. (128)
- 117 **Daisy Cooper** (St Albans): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to issue statutory guidance on the provision of absorbent products for adult incontinence products. (129)
- 118 **Dr Beccy Cooper** (Worthing West): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, by what procedure central government funding is allocated to institutions providing hospice care. (275)
- 119 **Dr Beccy Cooper** (Worthing West): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to monitor the rise in cases in the more spreadable variant of mpox now detected in the UK. (276)
- 120 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the prior consultation on the Down Syndrome Act 2022; and when he plans to publish the statutory guidance. (164)

- 121 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact of shortages of building inspectors on (a) repairs and (b) maintenance projects across the NHS Estate. (165)
- 122 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of facilities staff are on Agenda For Change contracts. (166)
- 123 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department are taking to tackle changes in rates of HIV diagnoses among heterosexual men and women. (167)
- 124 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to continue funding for the opt-out blood-borne virus testing programme at (a) St George's, Epsom and (b) St Helier Hospitals and Health Group beyond March 2025. (168)
- 125 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to extend opt-out HIV testing beyond emergency departments. (169)
- 126 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with diagnosed HIV who are not currently in care; what research it has conducted into the reasons for disengagement from care; and what funding is available to support programmes aimed at re-engaging such people with HIV services. (170)
- 127 **Charlie Dewhirst** (Bridlington and The Wolds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an estimate of the potential increase in incidents of (a) violent crime, (b) physical abuse and (c) verbal intimidation against shopkeepers as a result of a generational ban on tobacco sales. (230)
- 128 **Charlie Dewhirst** (Bridlington and The Wolds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government will take steps to support the mental health of shopkeepers responsible with enforcing the implementation of a generational ban on tobacco sales. (231)
- 129 **Charlie Dewhirst** (Bridlington and The Wolds): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the potential increase in illegal tobacco sales as a consequence of the implementation of a generational ban on tobacco sales. (232)
- 130 **Lauren Edwards** (Rochester and Strood): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase the number of General Practitioners in rural communities. (272)

- 131 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to (a) support research into and (b) promote awareness of (i) Guillain-Barré Syndrome, (ii) Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy and (iii) other related inflammatory neuropathies. (206)
- 132 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what progress he has has been made on ensuring appropriate treatment for people suffering from epilepsy; and what steps he has taken to implement the 2018 review by Dame Sally Davies on the therapeutic and medicinal benefits of cannabis based products. (209)
- 133 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many NHS prescriptions for cannabis based products there have been in each year since 2018. (210)
- 134 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the cost effectiveness of the covid-19 vaccine booster programme, in the context of the findings on the impact of vaccination take-up in care homes on resident mortality in the report by Sourafel Girma and David Paton entitled Using double-debiased machine learning to estimate the impact of Covid-19 vaccination on mortality and staff absences in elderly care homes, published in European Economic Review, Volume 170, November 2024. (225)
- 135 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the benefits of a review of the cost effectiveness of the care home vaccine mandate during COVID. (226)
- 136 **James MacCleary** (Lewes): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve support for families affected by baby loss including (a) access to counselling services, (b) support for siblings and (c) training for healthcare professionals in providing compassionate care. (261)
- 137 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to tackle health inequality caused by childhood poverty. (313)
- 138 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to help encourage more people to become organ donors. (314)
- 139 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve (a) urology and (b) continence services. (315)
- 140 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the (a) mental health and (b) social needs of kidney patients. (316)

- 141 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will have discussions with social care providers on the potential impact of Autumn Budget 2024 on the social care sector. (186)
- 142 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he plans to take to help improve (a) access to GP appointments and (b) rates of early-stage cancer diagnosis in areas of socio-economic deprivation in Yorkshire. (187)
- 143 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he plans to take ensure there is sufficient provision of (a) rehabilitation and (b) prehabilitation for cancer patients across all cancer alliances. (188)
- 144 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what his planned timetable is for when cancer sites will have recurrence data collection mandated to align with the collection of breast cancer recurrence data. (189)
- 145 **Jim Shannon** (Strangford): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of increasing the payments made to women for their eggs from 1 October 2024 on trends in the number of (a) low income women and (b) students who may undergo egg retrieval in exchange for money. (53)
- 146 **Munira Wilson** (Twickenham): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when he plans to publish his Department's final delivery plan on Myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.). (130)
- 147 **Tonia Antoniazzi** (Gower): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent representations he has made to his Afghan counterpart on the treatment of women and girls in that country. (101)
- 148 **Aphra Brandreth** (Chester South and Eddisbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what his Department's planned timetable is for concluding negotiations on the UK-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement; and what steps he is taking to support Armenia in closer engagement with the West. (250)
- 149 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the oral Answer by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 2 December 2024, Official Report, Column 27, if he will make an estimate of the cost to his Department of implementing the proposed UK-Mauritius treaty on the Chagos Islands excluding the Government-to-Government payment. (83)
- 150 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when Ministers from his Department have met representatives of the Chagossian community since 4 July 2024; and which Minister met how many Chagossians on each such occasion. (84)

- 151 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when Ministers from his Department have met representatives of the Maldives Government to discuss the future of the Chagos Islands since 4 July 2024; and which Minister met which representative of the Maldives on each such occasion. (85)
- 152 **Ben Coleman** (Chelsea and Fulham): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many and what proportion UK Ambassadors have met with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the past year. (317)
- 153 **Ben Coleman** (Chelsea and Fulham): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, which ambassadors have met Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the last year. (318)
- 154 **Ben Coleman** (Chelsea and Fulham): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will publish a list of embassies ranked by the number of times they have met Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the last year. (319)
- 155 **Dr Beccy Cooper** (Worthing West): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make it his policy to support (a) low and (b) middle income countries issuing compulsory licenses for the HIV prevention tool lenacapavir. (278)
- 156 **Dr Beccy Cooper** (Worthing West): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will prioritise global health spending in the Overseas Development Assistance budget in (a) 2024-25 and (b) 2025-26. (279)
- 157 **Helen Grant** (Maidstone and Malling): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of British Council's repayment of its pandemic loan on its ability to promote UK soft power. (26)
- 158 **Alice Macdonald** (Norwich North): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, when his Department last raised the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan in the (a) UN Human Rights Council and (b) General Assembly. (182)
- 159 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to help protect (a) journalists and (b) media workers (i) based and (ii) operating in Gaza. (190)
- 160 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the Committee to Protect Journalists press release entitled, Journalist casualties in the Israel-Gaza war, published 3 December 2024. (191)

- 161 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department uses journalistic reporting from Palestinian journalists in Gaza when conducting assessments into (a) the humanitarian situation and (b) Israeli military actions in Gaza. (192)
- 162 **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 6 November 2024 to Question 12938 on Research Finance, what proportion of the £500m allocated to his Department for spend on research and development in 2024-25 was classified as official development assistance. (42)
- 163 **Shivani Raja** (Leicester East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent diplomatic steps he has taken to help ensure the protection of (a) Hindu communities and (b) other religious minorities in Bangladesh. (160)
- 164N **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, which Department will have responsibility for the Laboratory for AI Security Research; and what steps the Government plans to take to ensure the laboratory's work informs the strategies and operations of all relevant departments. [Transferred] (17727)
- 165N **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, whether the Laboratory for AI Security Research will be operational in time to inform the Strategic Defence Review. [Transferred] (17728)
- 166N **David Reed** (Exmouth and Exeter East): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the press release entitled UK and its allies must stay one step ahead in new AI arms race, published on 25 November 2024, whether the Ministry of Defence will hold equity in the Laboratory for AI Security Research. [Transferred] (17729)
- 167 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of giving health and care workers on Tier 2 visas a certificate of common sponsorship. (109)
- 168 **Rachel Blake** (Cities of London and Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to reform pay policies at the National Crime Agency. (257)
- 169 **Rachel Blake** (Cities of London and Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help tackle the theft of mobile phones. (258)

- 170 **Carla Denyer** (Bristol Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government's independent adviser on political violence and disruption has had meetings with representatives of (a) Leonardo, (b) Glencore, (c) Enwell Energy, (d) BP and (e) Centrica since being appointed to that role. (177)
- 171 **Alex Easton** (North Down): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to (a) recognise domestic abuse as a form of violence against women and girls, (b) prioritise funding for specialist services, (c) implement reforms to family courts recommended in the Ministry of Justice's Harm Panel review and (d) take other steps to tackle such violence. (260)
- 172 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department developed plans to use roll-on/roll-off ferries to bring irregular migrants to the UK from France in 2022. (213)
- 173 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many female migrants have reported sexual assault in Manston Immigration Centre in each of the last ten years. (214)
- 174 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents involving improvised weapons have been recorded at Manston Immigration Centre since February 2022; and what weapons were used in those incidents. (215)
- 175 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times the number of irregular migrants processed at Western Jet Foil did not match the number processed at Manston Immigration Centre since February 2022. (216)
- 176 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 16274 on Undocumented Migrants: Age Assurance, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of using bone density testing for all undocumented migrants claiming to be children where there is reason to doubt their claimed age. (217)
- 177 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 16274 on Undocumented Migrants: Age Assurance, what the nature is of the further comprehensive age assessment. (218)
- 178 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on refugees visiting their country of origin whilst still resident in the UK. (219)
- 179 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under 18 absconded and did not return last year. (220)

- 180 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of irregular migrants arriving by small boat possessed (a) a passport and (b) another form of identification in each year since 2018. (221)
- 181 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportations have not taken place due to mental health concerns in each of the last five years. (224)
- 182 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are on the terror watchlist broken down by ideological motivation. (228)
- 183 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to stop modern slavery practices within supply chains (a) domestically and (b) internationally. (328)
- 184 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure law enforcement agencies are equipped with the necessary (a) training and (b) resources to (i) identify and (ii) tackle modern slavery cases effectively. (329)
- 185 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with her international counterparts on tackling (a) human trafficking and (b) modern slavery across borders. (330)
- 186 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of its policies on tackling modern slavery. (331)
- 187 **James McMurdock** (South Basildon and East Thurrock): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the support services available to victims of modern slavery; and what steps her Department is taking to ensure these services are (a) accessible and (b) fit for purpose. (332)
- 188 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that legitimate knife manufacturers are not adversely affected by online restrictions intended to reduce knife crime. (184)
- 189 **Alex Sobel** (Leeds Central and Headingley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure sponsor licenses are processed within the service standards timeframes. (104)
- 190 **Alex Sobel** (Leeds Central and Headingley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a (a) hotline for reporting and (b) focus group on (i) politically motivated assaults and (ii) transnational repression. (105)

- 191 **Alex Sobel** (Leeds Central and Headingley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure translators used by police forces are impartial. (106)
- 192 **Patrick Spencer** (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what grounds she decided the level of funding for Suffolk Constabulary; and if she will review that funding. (273)
- 193 **Patrick Spencer** (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost of the increase to employers National Insurance contributions for Suffolk Constabulary in the 2025-26 financial year; and how much additional funding her Department plans to provide to Suffolk Constabulary for this purpose in the same period. (274)
- 194 **Bradley Thomas** (Bromsgrove): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many additional police officers her Department plans to fund in West Mercia by the end of 2025. (235)
- 195 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has met the nuclear test veteran campaign group. (127)
- 196 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when Ministers from his Department have met representatives of the Chagossian community since 4 July 2024; and which Minister met how many Chagossians on each such occasion. (86)
- 197 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, when Ministers from his Department have met representatives of the Maldives Government to discuss the future of the Chagos Islands since 4 July 2024; and which Minister met which representative of the Maldives on each such occasion. (87)
- 198 **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he has instituted a freeze in his Department on new procurement to satisfy Urgent Capability Requirements. (88)
- 199 **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department is involved in the Serious Fraud Office's investigation into suspected bribery and corruption at Thales UK. (13)
- 200 **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the role Capita's (a) systems and (b) processes played in the security failings that allowed Daniel Khalife to escape; and whether he plans to review Capita's contract with his Department. (14)
- 201 **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what performance reviews have been conducted on Capita's role in the recruitment of military personnel in the last five years. (16)

- 202 **Sir John Hayes** (South Holland and The Deepings): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will take steps to prioritise domestic supply chains in defence procurement. (3)
- 203 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many of his Department's firearms were (a) lost and (b) stolen in each month in 2023. (308)
- 204 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many incidents of (a) mould, (b) fire, and (c) flooding were recorded in military service personnel housing in each month in (a) 2022 and (b) 2023. (309)
- 205 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many service personnel were referred to mental health services in 2023. (310)
- 206 **Martin Wrigley** (Newton Abbot): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will take steps to expedite compensation for nuclear test veterans. (178)
- 207 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of offering free bus travel for homeless (a) children and (b) adults living in temporary accommodation. (107)
- 208 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to increase investment in high streets in (a) the North West and (b) Runcorn and Helsby constituency. (112)
- 209 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to increase the net supply of social housing in the next five years. (114)
- 210 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will take steps to end homelessness in the next five years. (115)
- 211 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when she plans to implement secondary legislation under the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024. (124)
- 212 **Lee Anderson** (Ashfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to help protect leaseholders from (a) excessive ground rents and (b) other exploitative practices in the period until secondary legislation is implemented under the Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act 2024. (125)
- 213 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (302)

- 214 **Rachel Blake** (Cities of London and Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to remove the requirement for a local connection for (a) homeless veterans, (b) survivors of domestic abuse and (c) care leavers. (255)
- 215 **Rachel Blake** (Cities of London and Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of rules on local connection for housing allocations. (256)
- 216 **David Chadwick** (Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether ETSU-R-97 is (a) the only framework methodology used for the assessment of onshore wind turbines and (b) the most (i) effective and (ii) up to date guidance; what assessment he has made of the potential impact of changes in the size of wind turbines on the effectiveness of ETSU-R-97; and if he will review the ETSU-R-97 guidance. (266)
- 217 **Mr Lee Dillon** (Newbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what her Department's timescales are for bringing forward secondary legislation in relation to the Leasehold Act 2024. (280)
- 218 **Mr Lee Dillon** (Newbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing measures to reduce the hope value of land. (282)
- 219 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will take steps to freeze the small business rate relief multiplier while adjusting for the revaluation in 2026-27. (64)
- 220 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 19 November 2024 to Question 13412 on Local Government Finance, whether she plans to reduce funding for councils not in areas of high deprivation. (65)
- 221 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what information her Department holds on the average ranking for local authorities in (a) urban, (b) suburban and (c) rural areas on the Index of Multiple Deprivation in the latest year for which data is available. (66)
- 222 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the increased revenue to the public purse generated by the increase in business rates for private schools from 2025-26 onwards will be (a) kept in full by local government, (b) shared between central and local government through business rate retention or (c) retained by central government. (67)

- 223 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 15 November 2024 to Question 10991, on Civil Service: Zero Hours Contracts, how many departmental (a) staff and (b) contractors are on zero hour contracts. (68)
- 224 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2024, to Question 12952, on Devolution: Suffolk, whether combined county authorities should contain (a) one county council or (b) more than one county council. (69)
- 225 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to her Department's consultation entitled Modern leasehold: restricting ground rent for existing leases, updated on 8 December 2023, when she plans to respond to that consultation. (70)
- 226 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the potential implications for her policies of the recommendations on electoral (a) law and (b) administration in the Report on the 2024 UK Parliamentary general election and the May 2024 elections, published by the Electoral Commission in November 2024. (71)
- 227 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Report on the 2024 UK Parliamentary general election and the May 2024 elections, published by the Electoral Commission in November 2024, what plans she has to increase participation by overseas electors in future general elections. (72)
- 228 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman has to issue guidance on issuing of litter fines to householders. (73)
- 229 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on how many occasions she has visited the QEII Centre since the general election; and if she will visit the GB News studio in the centre. (74)
- 230 **Kevin Hollinrake** (Thirsk and Malton): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the planned merger of Local Government Pension Scheme funds will require legislation; and on what (a) geography or (b) criteria the new merged funds will be based. (75)
- 231 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent progress she has been made in removing dangerous cladding from building across the UK. (202)
- 232 **Chris Kane** (Stirling and Strathallan): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether she has had recent discussion with the Scottish government on the Cladding Remediation Programme in Scotland. (203)

- 233 **Ben Maguire** (North Cornwall): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of a system for dispute resolution available to freeholders paying estate management fees. (322)
- 234 **David Williams** (Stoke-on-Trent North): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to help tackle land banking. (199)
- 235 **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (303)
- 236 **Sarah Champion** (Rotherham): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the oral contribution of the then Minister of State in her Department during the Ninth sitting of the Public Bill Committee on the Victims and Prisoners Bill on 4 July 2023, Official Report column 310, and to correspondence on the timetable for implementation of the duty on public authorities to collaborate under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, published on 5 November 2024, whether (a) the guidance to be developed under this implementation process will clarify that modern slavery victims (i) can and (ii) are likely to be covered by the duty and (b) stakeholders involved in supporting victims of modern slavery will be included in the consultation process. (57)
- 237 **Rupert Lowe** (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many trials have not taken place as a result of the defendant being deemed not fit for trial due to mental health conditions in each of the last five years. (223)
- 238 **Laurence Turner** (Birmingham Northfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether her Department plans to respond to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Review 2020, published on 16 July 2020. (248)
- 239 **Freddie van Mierlo** (Henley and Thame): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of replacing external (a) translation and (b) interpretation services provided to her Department with services provided by departmental staff. (267)
- 240 **Freddie van Mierlo** (Henley and Thame): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to ensure the adequacy of services provided by interpreters to her Department. (268)
- 241 **Freddie van Mierlo** (Henley and Thame): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when she plans to publish the independent review of her Department's language services. (269)
- 242 **Mike Amesbury** (Runcorn and Helsby): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment she has made of the potential impact of the changes to employers National Insurance contributions on the financial situation of hospices. (111)

- 243 **Charlie Dewhirst** (Bridlington and The Wolds): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she has had discussions with her Australian counterpart on the impact of excise tax for tobacco products on (a) consumer and (b) organised crime group behaviour. (233)
- 244 **Mr Lee Dillon** (Newbury): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing separate inheritance tax thresholds for (a) agricultural land and (b) business equipment for farmers. (283)
- 245 **Dame Caroline Dinenage** (Gosport): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will take steps to help ensure that people with Down Syndrome can receive direct payments from local councils. (25)
- 246 **Alex Easton** (North Down): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on funding for public sector pay awards in Northern Ireland; and whether she has allocated funding to ensure parity in pay offers for public sector workers in Northern Ireland. (259)
- 247 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate she has made of the proportion of employers who will pay (a) the same and (b) less in employer National Insurance Contributions from April 2025. (19)
- 248 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the oral contribution by the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 3 December 2024, Official Report, column 200, what estimate she has made of the (a) median and (b) mean average number of people employed by the subset of employers she expects will pay (i) the same and (ii) less in employer National Insurance contributions under her planned changes. (20)
- 249 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make an estimate of the total revenue to the public purse from increases in employer National Insurance Contributions for (a) GP practices, (b) dental practices, (c) hospices, (d) pharmacies and (e) other organisations contracted to the NHS. (21)
- 250 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make a comparative assessment of the potential impact of (a) employment and (b) wage-level effects resulting from increases to employer National Insurance Contributions on (i) women and (ii) men. (22)
- 251 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what comparative assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of proposed increases to employer national insurance contributions on (a) full-time and (b) part-time workers. (23)
- 252 **Damian Hinds** (East Hampshire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of increases to employer National Insurance contributions at the Autumn Budget 2024 on (a) employment levels and (b) wages for (i) lower-paid and (ii) higher-paid workers. (24)

- 253 **Ben Maguire** (North Cornwall): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of additional Government-funded Adult Education Centres across Cornwall. (324)
- 254 **Abtisam Mohamed** (Sheffield Central): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she plans to provide additional funding to local authorities to meet the increased costs of social care. (185)
- 255 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of changes to agricultural property relief in the Autumn Budget 2024 on the sustainability of domestic food production. (89)
- 256 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what guidance she plans to issue to small business farmers who wish to keep an inherited family farm. (90)
- 257 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps she is taking with the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to help ensure the generational continuity of agricultural businesses. (91)
- 258 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of changes to (a) agricultural and (b) business property relief in the Autumn Budget on family-owned farms in (a) Kent and (b) Faversham and Mid Kent constituency. (92)
- 259 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many farms were subject to inheritance tax in Faversham and Mid Kent constituency in the (a) 2019-20, (b) 2020-21 and (c) 2021-22 financial year. (93)
- 260 **Helen Whately** (Faversham and Mid Kent): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what case studies she has used to calculate the financial impact of proposed changes to Agricultural Property Relief. (97)

Questions for Answer on Monday 9 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1N **Dame Harriett Baldwin** (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the defence and security manufacturing sector. (36)

- 2N **Andrew Griffith** (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, with reference to the Minister of State for Trade Policy and Economic Security's oral contribution of 3 December 2024, Official Report, column 174, whether his Department has conducted any independent visits to Xinjiang to investigate human rights abuses since 5 July. (143)
- 3N **Andrew Griffith** (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what information his Department holds on G20 states that have set a target to end the sale of new (a) solely internal combustion engine powered vehicles and (b) hybrid vehicles powered in part by internal combustion engines. (144)
- 4N **Andrew Griffith** (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the hospitality sector. (145)
- 5N **Andrew Griffith** (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, when he plans to respond to the letter of 28 November 2024 from the hon. Member for Arundel and South Downs. (146)
- 6N **Andrew Griffith** (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, how many computer monitors his Department has provided to (a) Ministers and (b) officials for home working since 5 July 2024; and what the cost to public purse was. (147)
- 7N **Alison Griffiths** (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the construction sector. (237)
- 8N **Alison Griffiths** (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the (a) maritime and (b) shipbuilding sector. (238)
- 9N **Alison Griffiths** (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the steel sector. (239)
- 10N **Alison Griffiths** (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the (a) materials and (b) critical minerals sector. (240)
- 11N **Alison Griffiths** (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Employment Rights Bill on the public bodies for which his Department is responsible. (241)

- 12N **Clive Jones** (Wokingham): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Education in response to the question from the hon. Member for Wokingham of Tuesday 3 December, Official Report, column 96WH, if she will write to provide further information. (242)
- 13N **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 16156 on Turing Scheme: Free School Meals, how many and what proportion of students with Turing grants are from disadvantaged backgrounds. (52)
- 14N **David Taylor** (Hemel Hempstead): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of mandated Continuing Professional Development activities for increasing Special Educational Needs and Disability services in Hertfordshire. (320)
- 15N **David Taylor** (Hemel Hempstead): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to increase uptake among schools for Universal SEND Services in Hertfordshire. (321)
- 16N **Laura Trott** (Sevenoaks): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to paragraph 5.20 of the Spring Budget 2024, published on 6 March 2024, HC 560, what her policy is on building 15 new special free schools. (131)
- 17N **Laura Trott** (Sevenoaks): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of pupils with SEND who currently attend independent schools do not have an Education, Health and Care plan. (132)
- 18N **Laura Trott** (Sevenoaks): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact on schools of ending the academy conversion support grant. (133)
- 19N **Laura Trott** (Sevenoaks): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential impact on schools of ending the academy conversion support grant. (134)
- 20N **Rosie Duffield** (Canterbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the KPMG interim investigation of December 2022 into Drax Power Station's claims for government subsidy. (99)
- 21N **Stephen Gethins** (Arbroath and Broughty Ferry): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 15757 on Agricultural Products: UK Trade with EU, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential financial impact of the UK leaving the EU on the agri-food sector. (61)

- 22N **Jim Shannon** (Strangford): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information his Department holds on how many registered farmers there are in each constituency in Northern Ireland. (54)
- 23N **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the Strategic Partnership Arrangement 2024 between Microsoft and the Crown Commercial Service, what guidance is available to civil servants on securing official documents held online. (43)
- 24N **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, which Minister is responsible for the interface between innovation and business to drive growth. (45)
- 25 **Paula Barker** (Liverpool Wavertree): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment has she made on the number of points failures on the rail network in the last 12 months. (139)
- 26 **Paula Barker** (Liverpool Wavertree): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment has she made on the adequacy of passenger facilities at Crewe railway station as a connection point for service between the North West and (a) the West Midlands and (b) the South East. (140)
- 27N **Dr Luke Evans** (Hinckley and Bosworth): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate she has made of the cost of nationalising South Western Railway. (135)
- 28N **Dr Luke Evans** (Hinckley and Bosworth): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of nationalising C2C. (136)
- 29N **Dr Luke Evans** (Hinckley and Bosworth): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of nationalising Greater Anglia. (137)
- 30N **Mike Martin** (Tunbridge Wells): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2024 to Question 15980 on Gatwick Airport, whether the previous Secretary of State for Transport met with groups opposing Gatwick Airport expansion. (246)
- 31N **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps she is taking to help improve the provision of real time information at bus stops. (49)
- 32N **Richard Burgon** (Leeds East): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department is taking to help tackle poverty for people on low incomes; and if she will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a statutory duty to progressively reduce levels of poverty for those people. (76)

- 33N **Clive Lewis** (Norwich South): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment her Department has made of whether the divestment of pension funds from insurance companies that are not compliant with the UK's climate commitments is a part of fiduciary duty. [Transferred] (17570)
- 34N **Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi** (Slough): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure (a) consistency of care and (b) availability of medication for people with an ADHD diagnosis who move to a different NHS Trust from the one in which they received their diagnosis. (103)
- 35N **Paulette Hamilton** (Birmingham Erdington): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he plans to provide additional interim healthcare services to people affected by the relocation of the North Birmingham Urgent Treatment Centre to Good Hope Hospital. (150)
- 36N **Mike Martin** (Tunbridge Wells): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 25 November 2024 to Question 15983 on General Practitioners: Kent, how much it cost to set up Bromleag Care Practice in 2019. (247)
- 37N **Helen Morgan** (North Shropshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the potential impact of hospital facilities staff strikes on patient wellbeing. (148)
- 38N **Helen Morgan** (North Shropshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to (a) end and (b) prevent strike action by hospital facilities staff. (149)
- 39N **Tonia Antoniazzi** (Gower): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his policies of the Taliban's decision to (a) ban women from medical training and (b) prohibit male medics from treating female patients. (100)
- 40N **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (298)
- 41N **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of (a) the participation of Mauritius in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and (b) sections on (i) military cooperation and (ii) other issues in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Action Plan for 2025-2027, published on 5 September 2024, on UK interests. (9)

- 42N **Stephen Gethins** (Arbroath and Broughty Ferry): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to help ensure that the British Council has adequate funding to effectively promote (a) Scottish and (b) wider UK (i) education and (ii) arts. (58)
- 43N **Stephen Gethins** (Arbroath and Broughty Ferry): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of proposed changes to Home Office English Language Testing services on the British Council's (a) finances and (b) ability to promote Scottish (i) further and (ii) higher education overseas. (59)
- 44N **Chi Onwurah** (Newcastle upon Tyne Central and West): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 November 2024 to Question 11881 on Research Finance, what proportion of the £335m allocated to his Department for spend on research and development in 2025-26 will be classified as official development assistance. (41)
- 45N **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (300)
- 46N **Liam Byrne** (Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he expects the end of (a) animal testing and (b) testing on beagles at MBR Acres. (6)
- 47N **Mr Gregory Campbell** (East Londonderry): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has issued on the circumstances in which registered sex offenders can apply to change their name. (8)
- 48N **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the Sri Lankan asylum seekers on Diego Garcia have been transferred to the UK. (154)
- 49N **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any of the Sri Lankan asylum seekers on Diego Garcia have been excluded from travel to the UK on the grounds of (a) their criminal convictions and (b) ongoing criminal investigations. (155)
- 50N **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has provided information to UK police forces on the Sri Lankan asylum seekers in Diego Garcia transferred to the UK. (156)
- 51N **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2024 to Question 12545 on Asylum: Sri Lanka, what the serious welfare and safeguarding concerns for (a) children and (b) other people were on Diego Garcia. (157)

- 52N **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2024 to Question 12545 on Asylum: Sri Lanka, whether her Department sought information from the Sri Lankan government on the criminal records of Sri Lankan nationals in Diego Garcia before they were transferred to the UK. (158)
- 53N **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many employee settlement agreements there were in his Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (301)
- 54N **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to his oral Answer to the hon. Member for South Suffolk of 11 November 2024, Official Report, Column 505, whether he plans to provide information on the cost of (a) direct payments made to the government of Mauritius and (b) other aspects of the treaty with Mauritius when that treaty is debated in Parliament. (78)
- 55N **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the oral Answer by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 2 December 2024, Official Report, Column 27, if he will make an estimate of the cost to his Department of implementing the proposed UK-Mauritius treaty on the Chagos Islands excluding the Government-to-Government payment. (79)
- 56N **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the oral Answer by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 2 December 2024, Official Report, Column 27, what the estimated cost to the US will be of the Chagos settlement excluding the Government-to-Government payment. (80)
- 57N **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the cost has been of (a) capital and (b) non-capital expenditure on (i) HMS Albion, (ii) HMS Bulwark, (iii) HMS Northumberland, (iv) RFA Wave Knight and (v) RFA Wave Ruler in each of the last five financial years. (81)
- 58N **James Cartlidge** (South Suffolk): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 17024 on Defence Equipment and Support, whether he has instructed his Department to put a hold on new procurement in this financial year. (82)
- 59N **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the Serious Fraud Office investigation into suspected bribery and corruption at Thales UK on defence procurement contracts with that company. (10)
- 60N **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether Thales products used by his Department are directly implicated in the Serious Fraud Office investigation into suspected bribery and corruption at that company. (11)

- 61N **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps whether he has made an assessment of the potential (a) legal and (b) financial implications for his Department of the Serious Fraud Office investigation into suspected bribery and corruption at Thales UK. (12)
- 62N **Mr Mark Francois** (Rayleigh and Wickford): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether he plans to publish a Command Paper on implementation of the Strategic Defence Review. (15)
- 63N **Zöe Franklin** (Guildford): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when her Department plans to make a decision on the planning application for a solar facility at the University of Surrey. (285)
- 64N **Jayne Kirkham** (Truro and Falmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will issue guidance to registered social housing providers which confirms that if a floor covering exists in a property when the tenancy changes over that the default will be to keep it as part of the Decent Homes Standard. (263)
- 65N **Jayne Kirkham** (Truro and Falmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will update the Decent Homes Standard to include floor coverings in social rented properties. (264)
- 66N **Margaret Mullane** (Dagenham and Rainham): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to ensure (a) landlords and (b) management companies are held accountable for safety defects in leasehold properties. (262)
- 67N **Vikki Slade** (Mid Dorset and North Poole): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to (a) assess and (b) prevent unauthorised sub-letting of social housing for holiday lets. (287)
- 68N **Mr Gregory Campbell** (East Londonderry): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the Answer of 10 January 2024 to Question 7797 on Prisons: Research, what (a) conclusions she has drawn and (b) changes she has made as a result of the Ipsos MORI research project on the retributive benefit of prison. (7)
- 69N **Dr Allison Gardner** (Stoke-on-Trent South): To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to support those with criminal records to reintegrate back into appropriate work. (304)
- 70N **Mr Peter Bedford** (Mid Leicestershire): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many employee settlement agreements there were in her Department in each year since 2020; and what the total value of such agreements is. (299)

- 71N **Stephen Gethins** (Arbroath and Broughty Ferry): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to oral contribution of 3 December 2024 by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, if she will make an overall estimate of the impact of the UK's exit from the EU. (60)
- 72N **Sir Julian Lewis** (New Forest East): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment she has made of the potential impact of increasing National Insurance contributions at the Autumn Budget 2024 on the ability of (a) Citizens Advice services and (b) other community-centred charities to maintain their (i) staffing levels and (ii) contribution to society. (1)
- 73N **Bradley Thomas** (Bromsgrove): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment she made of the potential impact of increases in employer National Insurance contributions on charities prior the the announcement of the Autumn Budget 2024. (234)

Questions for Answer on Tuesday 10 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1N **Perran Moon** (Camborne and Redruth): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the report entitled RView24, published by the Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology on 14 November 2024, what steps he plans to take to tackle the potential increase in methane emissions from landfill sites. [Transferred] (17685)
- 2N **Ben Obese-Jecty** (Huntingdon): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2024 to Question 16252 on Flood Control: Cambridgeshire, what steps the Government is taking to improve the condition of the Environment Agency's high consequence assets in Huntingdon constituency. (173)
- 3N **Dr Ben Spencer** (Runnymede and Weybridge): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure consistency of the supply of medication for (a) epilepsy and b) Parkinson's disease patients. (138)
- 4N **Freddie van Mierlo** (Henley and Thame): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the New Hospital Programme review, when the (a) options and (b) recommendations for the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading will be published; and when he plans to announce which hospitals will be prioritised. (270)

Oral Questions to the Secretary of State for Justice

- 1 **Sir Ashley Fox** (Bridgwater): What steps her Department is taking to help tackle hyper-prolific offenders. (901714)

- 2 **George Freeman** (Mid Norfolk): What recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the early release scheme. (901715)
- 3 **Suella Braverman** (Fareham and Waterlooville): What recent discussions she has had with the International Criminal Court on the issuing of international arrest warrants. (901716)
- 4 **Adam Thompson** (Erewash): What steps her Department is taking through the criminal justice system to help tackle violence against women and girls. (901717)
- 5 **Bobby Dean** (Carshalton and Wallington): What assessment she has made of the adequacy of the condition of prisons. (901718)
- 6 **Mr Calvin Bailey** (Leyton and Wanstead): What steps her Department is taking to help reduce reoffending. (901719)
- 7 **Elaine Stewart** (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock): What steps her Department is taking through the criminal justice system to help tackle violence against women and girls. (901720)
- 8 **Paul Davies** (Colne Valley): What steps she is taking to equip prisoners with the skills they need to support their rehabilitation. (901721)
- 9 **Dr Luke Evans** (Hinckley and Bosworth): What assessment she has made of the adequacy of legislation on funerals. (901722)
- 10 **Dr Danny Chambers** (Winchester): What steps her Department is taking through the criminal justice system to help support victims of ecocide. (901723)
- 11 **Mr Connor Rand** (Altrincham and Sale West): What steps her Department is taking to reform the prison system. (901724)
- 12 **Bob Blackman** (Harrow East): What steps she is taking to help ensure that prisoners are prepared for life outside of prison before they are released. (901725)
- 13 **Yuan Yang** (Earley and Woodley): What steps her Department is taking through the criminal justice system to help tackle violence against women and girls. (901726)
- 14 **Mark Sowards** (Leeds South West and Morley): What steps her Department is taking to help reduce reoffending. (901727)
- 15 **Patrick Spencer** (Central Suffolk and North Ipswich): What steps her Department is taking to increase prison capacity. (901728)
- 16 **Wendy Morton** (Aldridge-Brownhills): What recent assessment she has made of trends in the number of offenders waiting to be tagged. (901729)
- 17 **Luke Myer** (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland): What steps her Department is taking to reduce the backlog of Crown Court cases. (901730)
- 18 **Andrew Ranger** (Wrexham): What steps her Department is taking to help reduce reoffending. (901731)

- 19 **Joe Robertson** (Isle of Wight East): What steps her Department is taking to help tackle hyper-prolific offenders. (901732)
- 20 **Shockat Adam** (Leicester South): What steps her Department is taking through the criminal justice system to help support victims of gambling-related crimes. (901733)
- 21 **Rebecca Smith** (South West Devon): What assessment she has made of the potential impact of the backlog of court cases on victims of crime. (901734)
- 22 **Sir Edward Leigh** (Gainsborough): What recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the early release scheme. (901735)
- 23 **Dan Aldridge** (Weston-super-Mare): What steps her Department is taking to help reduce reoffending. (901736)
- 24 **Olly Glover** (Didcot and Wantage): What discussions she has had with the Chief Coroner on reporting sudden unexpected death in epilepsy. (901737)
- 25 **Kim Johnson** (Liverpool Riverside): What assessment she has made of the potential merits of insourcing all prison maintenance. (901738)

Topical Questions to the Secretary of State for Justice

- T1 **Dr Caroline Johnson** (Sleaford and North Hykeham): If she will make a statement on her departmental responsibilities. (901739)
- T2 **Antonia Bance** (Tipton and Wednesbury): (901740)
- T3 **Dave Robertson** (Lichfield): (901741)
- T4 **Helen Maguire** (Epsom and Ewell): (901742)
- T5 **Shaun Davies** (Telford): (901743)
- T6 **Jessica Morden** (Newport East): (901744)
- T7 **Charlotte Nichols** (Warrington North): (901745)
- T8 **Alex Baker** (Aldershot): (901746)
- T9 **Nick Timothy** (West Suffolk): (901747)
- T10 **Rosie Duffield** (Canterbury): (901748)
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Questions for Answer on Wednesday 11 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1N **Dr Rupa Huq** (Ealing Central and Acton): To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase provision for NHS dentists in Ealing Central and Acton constituency. (77)
- 2N **Tony Vaughan** (Folkestone and Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of (a) commencing the move-on period for newly-recognised refugees only after access to their e-visa has been confirmed and (b) extending the move-on period to 56 days. (159)
- 3N **Mark Garnier** (Wyre Forest): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps the Government is taking to promote the UK as a place for international investment in digital assets. (33)
- 4N **Mark Garnier** (Wyre Forest): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether her Department has had discussions with the Financial Conduct Authority on regulation of digital assets. (34)
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Questions for Answer on Thursday 12 December

Questions for Written Answer

- 1N **Manuela Perteghella** (Stratford-on-Avon): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if she will make it her policy to reduce the VAT (a) rate and (b) threshold for businesses that provide personal care services. (180)