

You can find out more about cookies below, otherwise by continuing to use the site you agree to the use of the cookies as they are currently set.

I agree

I want to find out more



Site search

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Cookies](#)
- [Email alerts](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [Contact us](#)

Site search

1. Search

Search

Primary navigation

- [Home](#)
- [Parliamentary business](#)
- [MPs, Lords & offices](#)
- [About Parliament](#)
- [Get involved](#)
- [Visiting](#)
- [Education](#)

- [House of Commons](#)
- [House of Lords](#)
- [What's on](#)
- [Bills & legislation](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Publications & records](#)
- [Parliament TV](#)
- [News](#)
- [Topics](#)

You are here: [Parliament home page](#) > [Parliamentary business](#) > [Publications and Records](#) > [Hansard](#) > [Commons Debates](#) > Daily Hansard - Written Ministerial Statements

13 May 2014 : Column 17WS

13 May 2014 : Column 17WS

Written Statements

Tuesday 13 May 2014

CABINET OFFICE

Handling Member's Correspondence

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): I am today publishing a report on the performance of Departments and agencies on handling correspondence from Members and peers during the calendar year 2013.

Details are set out in the table below. Correspondence statistics for 2012 can be found in the *Official Report*, 13 May 2013, column 23W.

Departmental figures are based on substantive replies unless otherwise indicated. The footnotes to the table provide general background information on how the figures have been compiled.

<i>Correspondence from MP/Peers to Ministers and Agency Chief Executives 2013¹</i>			
<i>Department or Agency</i>	<i>Target set for reply (working days)</i>	<i>Number of letter received</i>	<i>% of replies within target</i>
Attorney-General's Office	20	433	86
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	15	7,968	93
- Companies House	10	114	100
- Insolvency Service	15	62	89
- Land Registry	15	107	93
- Skills Funding Agency	10	451	96
Cabinet Office	15	3,072	72
Charity Commission	15	262	91
Department for Communities and Local Government	10	9,832	72
- Planning Inspectorate	10	1,022	81
Crown Prosecution Service	20	410	89
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	20	6,317	51

11/06/2024, 16:08

House of Commons Hansard Ministerial Statements for 13 May 2014 (pt 0001)

Ministry of Defence	20	4,853	82
Department for Education ²	15	16,898	66
Department of Energy and Climate Change	15	6,920	74
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	15	10,362	71
- Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency	15	113	94
- Rural Payments Agency	15	179	91
Food Standards Agency *			
* <i>DH Ministers replies</i>	20	141	87
* <i>FSA Chair/CE replies</i>	20	114	89
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	20	10,043	95
Department of Health	18	18,918	95

13 May 2014 : Column 18WS

- Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency ³	18 64	93
- Public Health England	18 73	99
Home Office ⁴	15 8,761	61
-UK Visas & Immigration/Immigration Enforcement/Border Force ⁵	20 57,582	70
- Her Majesty's Passport Office	15 1,123	69

11/06/2024, 16:08

House of Commons Hansard Ministerial Statements for 13 May 2014 (pt 0001)

Department for International Development	15 3,407	94
Ministry of Justice	15 4,985	83
- HM Courts Service and Tribunals Service*		
*Where Ministers replied	15 1,006	78
*Where CEO replied	15 417	85
- National Archives (<i>Minister and CEO replies</i>)	15 19	100
- National Offender Management Service		
*Where Ministers replied	15 899	74
*Where CEO replied	20 274	93
- Office of the Public Guardian*		
*Where Ministers replied	15 47	90
*Where CEO replied	10 52	98
- Official Solicitor and Public Trustee	15 15	60
Northern Ireland Office	15 509	86
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Schools	15 340	74
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets	15 379	67
Office of the Leader of the House of Commons	15 147	96
Office of the Leader of the House of Lords	15 134	85

11/06/2024, 16:08

House of Commons Hansard Ministerial Statements for 13 May 2014 (pt 0001)

Office of Rail Regulation	20 51	85	
OFWAT (Water Services Regulation Authority)	10 119	85	
Scotland Office	15 170	72	
Serious Fraud Office	20 64	73	
Department for Transport	20 8,041	97	
- Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	7 2,272	99	
- Driving Standards Agency	10 192	98	
- Highways Agency	15 417	91	
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency	10 35	91	
HM Treasury	15 9,608	72	
- H M Revenue and Customs *			
<i>*Where Ministers replied</i>	15 1,915	73	
<i>*Where CEO replied</i>	15 6,331	83	
Treasury Solicitor's Department	10 16	100	
Wales Office	15 47	100	

13 May 2014 : Column 19WS

Department for Work and Pensions	20	21,005	89
- Child Maintenance Group ⁶	15	1,410	99
- Health and Safety Executive	15	165	95

- Human Resources	15	20	38
- Director General ⁷	15	2,825	97

¹ Departments and Agencies which received 10 MPs/Peers letters or fewer are not shown in this table. Holding or interim replies are not included unless otherwise indicated. The report does not include correspondence considered as Freedom of Information requests. ² Department for Education statistics include Education Funding Agency, National College of Teaching and Leadership, and Standards and Testing Agency. ³ From 1 January to 16 June 2013 the target set for reply at MHRA was 20 working days. The reduction to 18 on 17 June was made to bring the Agency in line with the target set by the Department of Health. ⁴ HOHQ refers to all Home Office correspondence that is not dealt with within UKVI/IE/BF (the former UKBA). ⁵ Reported separately from HOHQ because of different target that applies to these cases. ⁶ Formerly Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. ⁷ Formerly Chief Operations Officer.

DEFENCE

National Strategy for Maritime Security

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Philip Hammond): I am today laying before the House the UK national strategy for maritime security (NSMS), which outlines for the first time the UK's coherent and co-ordinated approach to delivering maritime security at home and internationally by explaining how we organise and use our extensive national capabilities to identify, assess and address maritime security challenges. The strategy places the maritime domain in context, highlighting its importance to UK prosperity and security and explains how, through effective collaboration across Government and with industry and our international partners, and through the integration of our assets and personnel wherever possible, we will deliver a maritime security output much greater than the sum of its parts.

The strategy's objectives are: to promote a secure international maritime domain and uphold international maritime norms; to develop the maritime governance capacity and capabilities of states in areas of strategic maritime importance; to protect the UK and the overseas territories, their citizens and economies by supporting the safety and security of ports and offshore installations and Red Ensign Group-flagged passenger and cargo vessels; to assure the security of vital maritime trade and energy transportation routes within the UK marine area, regionally and internationally, and to protect the resources and population of the UK and the overseas territories from illegal and dangerous activity, including serious organised crime and terrorism.

The strategy also introduces a robust Government approach to maritime security decision making and confirms our commitment to preserving the flow of maritime trade and upholding international maritime law.

13 May 2014 : Column 20WS

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Affairs Council for Development

The Secretary of State for International Development (Justine Greening): On 19 May, I will attend the Foreign Affairs Council for Development in Brussels. The meeting will be chaired by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Baroness Ashton of Upholland. The UK is recognised as a leader in international development as the first G7 member to reach the UN aid target of 0.7% gross national income. As Secretary of State for International Development, I look forward to participating in the meeting to share the UK experience in delivering world-class international development and to work with other member states to push the EU to do more to use its development, humanitarian, trade and diplomatic instruments in a coherent way to end poverty.

Introduction

Baroness Ashton is expected to cover a number of topics in her introductory remarks, including an update on the Ukraine donor co-ordination platform. I will take this opportunity to underline the vital role which the EU and member states can play in supporting the Ukrainian Government's reform efforts.

Post-2015 agenda

The UK remains at the forefront of the post-2015 discussions, building on the Prime Minister's co-chairing of the UN high-level panel. Ministers will discuss progress in the international post-2015 process, including reflecting on current discussions in the open working group on sustainable development goals and next steps for the EU. I will use this discussion to encourage the EU and member states to think strategically about how to ensure we get the best possible outcome from next year's UN negotiations.

Programming

The UK has been influential in strengthening EU development delivery. The EU is at the start of a new seven-year programming cycle under the new multi-annual financial framework. As a result of UK and like-minded member states' efforts, there will be a greater focus on the poorest countries, increased flexibility and country ownership, and an enhanced ability to measure results of EU aid. Ministers will receive an update on implementation of the agenda for change, including programming of EU financial instruments and emerging trends in the current programming period. I will welcome progress towards a results-based approach to the delivery of EU aid, but also call for further action on results, tracking and value for money and greater ambition on girls and women.

Rights-based approach to development

Ministers will adopt Council conclusions on a rights-based approach to development co-operation reaffirming that promotion of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and inclusive and sustainable growth, are basic and mutually reinforcing pillars of the EU's development policy.

Other agenda items

I expect to receive updates from the Commission and European External Action Service on the forthcoming communication on private sector development, progress on policy coherence for development, the recent global

13 May 2014 : Column 21WS

partnership for effective development co-operation ministerial, and the Eastern Partnership. I will also update my counterparts on the "girl summit" which the Prime Minister and UNICEF will co-host on 22 July. This will be a defining moment to rally a global movement to end female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage for all girls within a generation. With global co-operation, we can build on the efforts of many developing country Governments and local communities to end these harmful practices.

JUSTICE**Prison Service Pay Review Body (Triennial Review)**

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Jeremy Wright): My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Civil Justice and Legal Policy, Ministry of Justice, Lord Faulks, has made the following written ministerial statement:

On 4 March 2014, I announced in Parliament through a written ministerial statement, the commencement of the triennial review of the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB). I am now pleased to announce the completion of the review.

The PSPRB plays an important role providing independent advice to the Secretary of State for Justice and the review has concluded that the body remains fit for purpose, delivering relevant and beneficial functions on

behalf of the Prison Service, in an appropriate governance framework. The report makes some minor recommendations to improve the governance arrangements for the PSPRB and these will be examined and implemented as required.

The triennial review has been carried out comprehensively and I am grateful to all those who contributed to this review. I have, today, placed a copy of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

13 May 2014 : Column 22WS

TRANSPORT

Ministerial Correction

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Stephen Hammond): I would like to inform the House that a statement I made on 29 April 2014 during an adjournment debate on proposed Government reforms to taxi and private hire vehicle regulations, *Official Report*, column 225WH, was incorrect. During the speech I stated that:

“the Government asked the Law Commission to carry out a comprehensive review of the law. As has rightly been pointed out, it will present its report—it will not be presenting a Bill; it will be presenting a report in the next few weeks—and at that stage, as with all reviews and reports, the Government will review the whole of those detailed findings and recommendations.”

This was incorrect as the Law Commission will later this month present the Government with both a comprehensive review of taxi and private hire legislation as well as a draft Bill. However, the Government have no plans to introduce a dedicated taxi Bill in the final parliamentary Session. Instead, Government will consider the detailed findings of, and recommendations made, by the Law Commission before setting out our thinking on each in due course.

Given there will be no dedicated taxi Bill this Parliament, the measures which the Government intend to take forward within the Deregulation Bill represent an ideal opportunity to make a real-world difference to the business men and women who make up the taxi and private hire vehicle trades.

[Index](#)

[Home Page](#)

Footer links

- [A-Z index](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Freedom of Information](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Using this website](#)
- [Copyright](#)