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Weekly Public Affairs Report: Friday 17th May 2019

Written Questions - Mon 13th May

6 Dr Alan Whitehead (Southampton, Test): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what channels of communication his Department uses to alert the general public to a pollution episode.
[Transferred] (252464)

8 Ruth Cadbury (Brentford and Isleworth): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on air quality of the the number of journeys taken by bicycle. (252860)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190513.pdf>

Written Answers – Mon 13th May

Aviation: Global Positioning System

Grant Shapps: [251274]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what guidance his Department provides to aerodromes on the implementation of GPS approaches.

Jesse Norman:

Global Navigation Satellite System approaches need to be approved by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The CAA will provide guidance to aerodromes that are considering the implementation of such approaches. In particular the CAA has produced a framework for the safety cases which need to be produced as part of the approval process.

Grant Shapps: [251275]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the roll-out of GPS technology at aerodromes.

Jesse Norman:

The Government has regular discussions with the Civil Aviation Authority concerning the progress of airspace modernisation, and these have included updates on airspace change proposals designed to implement Global Satellite Navigation System approaches at aerodromes.

Aviation: Safety

Mr Clive Betts: [249826]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2019 to Question 245611 on Aircraft: Accidents, when (a) he and (b) his ministerial colleagues last had discussions with the football sector on safety and compliance issues in respect of commercial aircraft flights.

Jesse Norman:

The Secretary of State and his ministerial colleagues have not had discussions with representatives of the football industry on safety and compliance issues in respect of commercial air flights.

Aviation: Training

Grant Shapps: [251276]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps are being taken to ensure that pilot training is being adapted to incorporate (a) GPS approaches and (b) other new technologies.

Jesse Norman:

Global Navigation Satellite System approaches are one element of performance based navigation (PBN). An amendment to EU Regulation 1178/2011 (the Aircrew Regulation), which came into force in 2018, provides that pilots may only fly in accordance with PBN procedures if they hold an instrument rating with PBN privileges. The Aircrew Regulation establishes the training required to obtain PBN privileges. From 25 August 2020, all applicants for an instrument rating will be required to have undertaken PBN training.

Training requirements will be reviewed as and when the carriage and use of other new technologies are mandated. In addition, the Civil Aviation Authority is continuing to engage with the European Aviation Safety Agency to expand training on the use of satellite based technology to help reduce airspace infringements.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-05-13.pdf>

Written Questions – Tuesday 14th May

9 Henry Smith (Crawley): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the UK's contribution to tackling climate change; and if he will make a statement. (253562)

27 Paul Girvan (South Antrim): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to reduce (a) disposable and (b) non-recyclable waste on aviation services arriving to or departing from the UK. (253705)

29 Mr Steve Reed (Croydon North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce air pollution around schools. (253578)

49 Alex Cunningham (Stockton North): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2019 to Question 249276, if he will provide the figures for the number of workers in the offshore wind sector transported by helicopter (a) to and (b) from wind farms on the UK continental shelf in each year for which there are records. (253568)

40N Justine Greening (Putney): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate he has made of the (a) legal (b) other costs to the public purse of the judicial review of the Airports National Policy Statement. (253535)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190514.pdf>

Written Answers – Tuesday 14th May

Health: Air Pollution

Angela Smith: [251249]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department took to alert (a) children, (b) older people, (c) people with health conditions and (d) other vulnerable groups to the pollution episodes that occurred across England between 4-26 April 2019.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

During episodes of elevated air pollution (including the episodes between 4-26 April 2019), Defra works closely with Public Health England and a network of health charities to ensure that key health messages are communicated to those who are vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, in addition to communicating through our normal digital channels.

Defra's Daily Air Quality Index (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/daqj>) assists in understanding air pollution levels and suggests recommended actions and health advice. Such advice applies to anyone experiencing symptoms.

Transport: Capital Investment

Priti Patel: [252544]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what options are available to finance strategic transport infrastructure schemes.

Elizabeth Truss:

The Government directly finances strategic transport infrastructure through various funds. This includes Control Period 6 (which will invest almost £48bn in the railway network over the period 2019-2024) and the second Road Investment Strategy (which will invest £25.3bn in the strategic road network over the period 2020 - 2025).

The Chancellor announced at Budget 2018 that PFI and PF2 would no longer be used for new government projects, and the Treasury will not be seeking a like-for-like replacement for these models. The Treasury remains open to private finance for government-funded projects, and is consulting on this as part of the Infrastructure Finance Review, as announced in the Spring Statement.

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Written Questions – Wednesday 15th May

6 Paul Girvan (South Antrim): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to reduce (a) disposable and (b) non-recyclable waste on aviation services arriving to or departing from the UK. [Transferred] (253705)

45 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 30 April 2019 to Question 249315 on Railways, how many proposals for a Southern Rail Link to Heathrow were received following his market-led proposals invitation of 20 March 2018, how many of those proposals remain under active consideration by his Department; on what dates he last (a) met and (b) corresponded with the promoters of schemes under active consideration; and when he plans to announce the process for selecting a preferred developer. (254200)

46 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 30 April 2019 to Question 249314 on Railways, what assessment he has made of the effect of (a) a Western Rail Link to Heathrow Airport and (b) a Southern Rail Link to Heathrow Airport on the level of emissions of (i) greenhouse gases and (ii) other atmospheric pollutants in relation to (A) the existing configuration and (B) the addition of the North West Runway at London Heathrow Airport. (254201)

47 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 30 April 2019 to Question 249314, what (a) meetings, (b) correspondence and (c) other engagement his Department has had with (i) local authorities, (ii) the Mayor of London and (iii) the aviation industry on Western and Southern Rail Access to London Heathrow Airport since the publication of the Nicholls-Agilia reports on 19 December 2018. (254202)

34N Ms Harriet Harman (Camberwell and Peckham): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to aircraft noise nuisance, which communities will receive compensation and noise insulation as a result of the third runway at Heathrow airport; and on what criteria that decision was based. (254062)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190515.pdf>

Written Answers - Wednesday 15th May

Air Pollution

Andy Slaughter: [251941]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what guidance his Department provided to (a) schools, (b) nurseries, (c) hospitals, (d) care homes and (e) GP surgeries on protecting vulnerable people from the pollution episodes that occurred across England in April 2019.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

During episodes of elevated air pollution (including the episodes across England in April 2019) Defra works closely with Public Health England and a network of health charities to ensure that key health messages are communicated to those who are vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, in addition to communicating through our normal digital channels.

Defra's Daily Air Quality Index (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/daqj>) assists in understanding air pollution levels, suggests recommended actions and gives health advice. Such advice applies to anyone experiencing symptoms.

Low Emission Zones

Gareth Thomas: [251896]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make available funds from the Air Quality Grant Program to support local investment in ultralow emission zones in suburbs of major cities; and will he make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Air Quality Grant is a competitive grant and eligible local authorities can apply for support on innovative projects to reduce air pollution. Projects are evaluated based on air quality priorities.

We have provided almost £500 million to local authorities to enable action to tackle harmful roadside emissions including through clean air zones, and more than £3 million will be awarded to local authorities this year via the Air Quality Grant Fund.

Aircraft: Safety

Andy McDonald: [251398]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he plans to ask the Civil Aviation Authority to review the safety of the Sukhoi Superjet 100.

Jesse Norman:

The recent accident at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport involving an Aeroflot Sukhoi Superjet will be investigated by the Interstate Aviation Committee in Russia, while the responsible authority for certification of the aircraft design in the European Union is the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). No UK airlines currently operate this aircraft type, nor are there currently any routine operations of the type into the UK.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Andy McDonald: [251399]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of instructing UK airlines to adopt turbulence-dodging technology to reduce emissions.

Jesse Norman:

The Department has not made an assessment of the merits of instructing UK airlines to adopt turbulence-dodging technology to reduce emissions. As part of the development of the Aviation 2050 green paper, the Department commissioned research to understand what technological and operational measures could be available to reduce emissions from aviation by 2050.

Both the green paper and an accompanying paper on reducing aviation emissions were published on 17 December 2018 and may be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aviation-2050-the-future-of-uk-aviation>

The Government is committed to tackling aviation emissions. Our final Aviation 2050 strategy, which will be published later this year, will set out a clear approach to ensure that the sector plays its part in taking action against climate change.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Stephen Morgan: [251391]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his timescale is for announcing the next stage of the process for selecting a preferred developer for a southern rail link to Heathrow Airport.

Andrew Jones:

The Department has not undertaken a procurement process to select a preferred developer for a Southern Rail Link to Heathrow. Following the publication of the Market Sounding Report which showed that none of the schemes put forward were able to advance without Government support, and in line with the Report recommendations, the Department has been working to further develop and clarify the outcomes we want to be delivered from this project and consider appropriate commercial and procurement models. This work will be made available to the market by the summer along with further engagement opportunities.

Stephen Morgan: [251392]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what consultation his department has undertaken with (a) local authorities, (b) Local Enterprise Partnerships and business organisations, (c) trades unions and (d) voluntary sector bodies in the south of England on the potential benefits of a southern rail link to London Heathrow Airport.

Andrew Jones:

The Department has been actively engaging with many interested parties to better understand their views on this scheme. This is being done as part of the work to clarify Government's objectives for the scheme which was a recommendation of the Market Sounding Findings Report, published in December 2018.

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Written Questions – Thursday 16th May

33 Andrew Rosindell (Romford): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to reduce greenhouses gases to zero by 2050. (254767)

51N Keir Starmer (Holborn and St Pancras): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Prolonged Disturbance Compensation Scheme will make provision for compensation for residents affected by (a) lower air quality, (b) the generation of dust and pollution, (c) traffic disruption, (d) obstruction of vehicle access and (e) access to public transport. (254857)

Written Answers – Thursday 16th May

Air Pollution

Gareth Thomas: [251897]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what monitoring of air quality takes place in each local authority area in England; and if he will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to review and assess local ambient air quality, and are responsible for mitigation of air pollution where people are likely to be exposed. Defra provides guidance and support to local authorities on monitoring; positioning of monitors is expected to be in line with national and local priorities.

In addition, Defra's national network of air quality monitors currently comprises 272 sites across the UK and is managed by the Environment Agency. Sites are organized into networks that gather information on a wide range of pollutants in towns and cities as well as in rural areas. Some monitoring sites are focused on measuring specific sources, e.g. road traffic or industry whilst others are focused on background concentrations.

Monitoring data is made available on our UK-AIR website. Data from the Automatic Urban and Rural Network is reported in near-real-time and is updated every hour. The website is: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/>.

Andy Slaughter: [251940]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department takes to protect vulnerable people, including older people, children and people with health conditions from pollution episodes.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

During episodes of elevated air pollution, Defra works closely with Public Health England and a network of health charities to ensure that key health messages are communicated to those who are vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, in addition to communicating through our normal digital channels.

Defra's Daily Air Quality Index (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/daq1>) assists in understanding air pollution levels and suggests recommended actions and health advice. Such advice applies to anyone experiencing symptoms.

Dr Rosena Allin-Khan: [252076]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the number of (a) adults and (b) children who were exposed to high levels of air pollution between 4 and 26 April 2019.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Between 4 and 26 April 2019, there were two separate pollution episodes, which were due to a mixture of pollutants (including PM10, PM2.5 and ozone) and therefore it is not possible to easily estimate the number of adults and children who were exposed to high levels of air pollution.

Dr Alan Whitehead: [252464]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what channels of communication his Department uses to alert the general public to a pollution episode.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

During air pollution episodes, Defra works closely with Public Health England and a network of health charities to ensure that key health messages are communicated to those who are vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, in addition to communicating through our normal digital channels.

We recommend people visit <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/> for the latest forecasts and health advice or check our Twitter feed @DefraUKAir.

Dr David Drew: [252475]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the wind speed required to disperse (a) PM 0.1 and (b) PM 1 particles from the place where they are emitted.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

In 2018 the Government commissioned the Air Quality Expert Group to write a detailed report on ultrafine particles, which include PM 0.1 and PM 1.0. This report describes extensive research assessing the factors that affect the formation and dispersion of PM0.1 and PM1.0, including wind speed.

This report is available at
https://ukir.defra.gov.uk/library/reports.php?report_id=968

Ruth Cadbury: [252860]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on air quality of the number of journeys taken by bicycle.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Defra has not carried out a specific assessment of the effect on air quality of the number of journeys taken by bicycle. However, the Government is committed to increasing cycling and walking and making our roads safer for vulnerable users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

The benefits of cycling and walking are considerable. For people, it means cheaper travel and better health. For businesses, it means increased productivity and increased footfall in shops. And for society as a whole it means less congestion, better air quality, and vibrant, attractive places and communities.

The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, published in 2017, sets out the Government's plans for cycling and walking, with an ambition up to 2040 for "making cycling and walking the natural choices for short journeys or as part of a longer journey". The strategy also identifies £2 billion of financial resources which may be invested in cycling and walking during the Spending Review 2015 settlement period 2016/17-2020/21.

Airports: National Policy Statements

Justine Greening: [253535]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate he has made of the (a) legal (b) other costs to the public purse of the judicial review of the Airports National Policy Statement.

Jesse Norman:

The external costs to date to the Department of defending the judicial review claims are £1,608,642 for legal costs and £95,152 for other costs. Following the judgments in favour of the Secretary of State, the Department will seek to recover up to £625,000 in costs from the unsuccessful claimants.

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