

Penny Mordaunt MP (Conservatives, Portsmouth North) – former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work – was recently promoted to the position of Secretary of State for International Development (9 November 2017). Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) takes the position of Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work.

Employment

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| <p><u>Written question on what plans the Government has to reform the work capability assessment</u></p> | <p>Dr Lisa Cameron (SNP, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans his Department has to reform the work capability assessment.”</i></p> <p>Former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“We consulted on reform of the Work Capability Assessment in the Improving Lives Green Paper. We received around 6,000 consultation responses, supported by 166 accessible events across the country. Our officials have been working hard since the Green Paper consultation to analyse that fantastic response. We are working towards an autumn publication, which will provide an update on the recent work we’ve been doing, respond to the consultation, and set out our next steps.”</i></p> |
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Disability benefits

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| <p><u>Written question on what proportion of employment and support allowance claims were refused by the Department of Work and Pensions in the last 12 months</u></p> | <p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of employment and support allowance claims were refused by his Department in the last 12 months.”</i></p> <p>Former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“The latest available information on the proportion of initial Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants found fit for work at their Work Capability Assessment can be found in the first 5 tables of the ESA Outcomes of Work Capability Assessments quarterly statistics published in September 2017 here:</i></p> <p><i>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employment-and-support-allowance-outcomes-of-work-capability-assessment”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what the average cost to the public purse was of processing an individual employment and support allowance claim</u></p> | <p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average cost to the public purse was of processing an individual employment and support allowance claim in the last 12 months.”</i></p> <p>Former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> |

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| <p><u>in the last 12 months</u></p> | <p><i>“For April 2016 to March 2017, the average unit cost to DWP of processing an Employment and Support Allowance claim was £22.16.”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what plans the Government has to review the personal independence payments claims process</u></p> | <p>Afzal Khan MP (Labour, Manchester Gorton) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans the Government has to review the personal independence payments claims process.”</i></p> <p>Former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“We constantly look to review and improve the experience of people claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP). We are currently considering the recommendations made in the second independent review of Personal Independence Payment (published on 30 March 2017) which included recommendations to improve our communications for claimants. We plan to respond to the review’s findings later this year.”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what guidance the Department for Work and Pensions has published to raise awareness of requesting home assessments for personal independence payments applicants</u></p> | <p>Afzal Khan MP (Labour, Manchester, Gorton) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what guidance his Department has published to raise awareness of requesting a home assessment for personal independence payments applicants.”</i></p> <p>Former Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“Consultations may potentially be carried out in a variety of locations and some will need to be carried out at a claimant’s home. Information relating to when a home consultation should be considered can be found in the PIP Assessment Guide which is publically available on gov.uk</i></p> <p><i>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-assessment-guide-for-assessment-providers”</i></p> |

Social Care

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| <p><u>Written question on the Government’s estimate of the shortage of places in care homes for elderly people</u></p> | <p>Lord Laming (Crossbench) has asked <i>“Her Majesty’s Government what is their estimate of the shortage of places in care homes for elderly people.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Lord O’Shaughnessy’s response (Conservatives):</p> <p><i>“No such estimate has been made. It is for local authorities to plan care provision based on the needs of their local populations. Nationally, the number of care home beds has been stable at around 460,000 beds in England since 2010.</i></p> <p><i>In their 2015 published projections which relate to older people using social care (65+) only, the Personal Social Services Research Unit project increases in publically and privately funded care home residents of 49% and 110% respectively between 2015 and 2035.</i></p> <p><i>Social care continues to be a priority for this Government. This is why local authorities in England will receive an additional £2 billion for social care over</i></p> |
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Written question on what assessment the Government has made of the disparity in charges for places in care between full payers and those supported by local authorities

the next three years, with £1 billion provided in 2017-18 so that councils can fund more packages of care immediately. One of the three key purposes of the additional funding is to assist councils in stabilising the local provider market. The Care Act 2014 placed a duty on local authorities in England to promote a diverse, sustainable, high quality market of care and support providers for people in their local area. Local authorities are expected to understand and articulate likely future demand for services in their area, engage with care providers to understand the likely supply of services, provide signals to the market of their intent, and as needed, intervene in the market to stimulate change and innovation in providers to better meet the needs of people and communities.

Prices for care home places are agreed between the provider, the individuals and their families who are self-funding their own care. Prices therefore vary across the country. Central Government has no say in these individual negotiations. The Department continues to support local authorities with their new Care Act duties to ensure their local market remains effective to meet people's care needs regardless of how services are funded.

The Competition and Markets Authority has an ongoing market study into the residential care market. A financial analysis paper, dated 11 September 2017, contains recent analysis of the charges in place in care homes for self-funders and those supported by a local authority. A copy of Care homes market study is attached.

The full market study is due to be published at the end of November, following which the Government will issue a formal response."

[Care Homes Market Study](#) (PDF Document, 325.15 KB)

Lord Laming (Crossbench) has asked "*Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disparity in charges for places in care homes between full payers and those supported by local authorities.*"

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Lord O'Shaughnessy's response (Conservatives):

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Written question on what estimate has been made on the future of places needed in care homes for older people, in light of demographic changes

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| | <p><i>new Care Act duties to ensure their local market remains effective to meet people's care needs regardless of how services are funded.</i></p> <p><i>The Competition and Markets Authority has an ongoing market study into the residential care market. A financial analysis paper, dated 11 September 2017, contains recent analysis of the charges in place in care homes for self-funders and those supported by a local authority. A copy of Care homes market study is attached.</i></p> <p><i>The full market study is due to be published at the end of November, following which the Government will issue a formal response."</i></p> <p><i>Include? Don't include? http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-25/HL2521/</i></p> <p>Care Homes Market Study (PDF Document, 325.15 KB)</p> |
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Life Sciences

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| <p>Lords Science and Technology Select Committee: Oral Evidence</p> | <p>The Lords Science and Technology Select Committee heard oral evidence on implementation of the life sciences industrial strategy, as part of its inquiry. The inquiry will seek to examine whether the Government can support the life sciences and how the NHS can utilise the procurement process to inspire innovation.</p> <p>To read the full transcript please click on the link on the left</p> |
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Parliamentary terms

Early Day Motion (EDM)

Early Day Motions are formal motions for debate submitted by MPs in the House of Commons. There is usually no time available to actually debate an EDM, but they are useful for drawing attention to specific events or campaigns and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. MPs register their support by signing individual motions.

Oral Parliamentary Question (OPQ) and Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ)

Parliamentary Questions are used by both MPs and Peers to question Ministers in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are used to seek information, and Ministers are obliged to explain and defend the work, policy, decisions and actions of their departments, oral questions can also be used to make political points. Parliamentary questions are a vital tool in holding the Government to account. The Prime Minister answers oral questions from the House of Commons every Wednesday at midday.

Debates

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords hold debates in which Members discuss government policy, proposed new laws and current issues. All debates are recorded in a publication called 'Hansard' which is available online or in print.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal groups composed of politicians from all political parties. They provide an opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. All-party groups sometimes act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

Select Committees

House of Commons Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government departments. Most committees have about 11 members and reflect the relative size of each party in the Commons. They conduct enquiries on a specific issue, and gather evidence from expert witnesses. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The Government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Written ministerial statements

Government ministers can make written statements to announce:

- The publication of reports by government agencies
- Findings of reviews and inquiries and the government's response
- Financial and statistical information
- Procedure and policy initiatives of government departments

Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills allow backbench MPs or Peers to introduce their own legislation. There are three types of Private Members' Bills introduced into the House of Commons:

- **Ballot Bills:** A ballot is held at the beginning of each parliamentary year the 20 MPs whose names come out top are allowed to introduce legislation on a subject of their choice.
- **Ten Minute Rule Bills:** The sponsoring MP is given a slot in which they may make a speech lasting up to 10 minutes in support of his or her bill
- **Presentation Bill:** a Member is not able to speak in support of it and it stands almost no chance of becoming law