

Weekly Political Update

12 December 2017

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Social care

Click on link for source

<p><u>Oral statement on social care</u></p>	<p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) made the following oral statement on social care:</p> <p><i>“This oral statement is the Government’s response to the recent Opposition day debate on social care on Wednesday 25 October. Since that debate, the Government announced further plans for the Green Paper on care and support for older people on 16 November. This oral statement reiterates the substance of that announcement while providing further detail to the House in some specific areas.</i></p> <p><i>An ageing society means that we need to reach a longer-term sustainable settlement for social care. That is why the Government have committed to publishing a Green Paper by summer 2018 setting out their proposals for reform. An inter-ministerial group is overseeing this work. This builds on the additional £2 billion over the next three years that we have already provided to meet social care needs.</i></p> <p><i>In developing the Green Paper, it is right that we take the time needed to debate the many complex issues and listen to the perspectives of experts and care users, building consensus around reforms which can succeed. That is why we are starting a process of initial engagement over the coming months through which the Government will work with experts, stakeholders and users to shape the long-term reforms that will be proposed in the Green Paper. The Government have asked a range of independent experts in this area to provide their views, including the leads of the two most recent reviews on social care, Andrew Dilnot and Kate Barker. We are also engaging closely with key stakeholders, and with people who use services and their carers. The Government will host a number of roundtables to hear a range of perspectives from those representing different constituencies, including carers, service recipients, providers, health services, financial services providers, local government, and working-age adults.</i></p> <p><i>Once the Green Paper is published, it will be subject to a full public consultation. The Government recognise that there is broad agreement across Parliament that reform of social care is a priority, and we look forward to working with parliamentarians to hear a range of views....”</i></p> <p>Minister Jackie Doyle Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) continued:</p> <p><i>“We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities and complex conditions can live healthy, independent lives, and participate fully in society. Many of the issues and questions about the sustainability of the care system will be relevant to adults of all ages. To ensure that issues specific to working-age adults with care needs are considered in their own right, the Government have committed to taking forward a parallel programme of work on working-</i></p>
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age social care, which is being led jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government. This work will be overseen by the inter-ministerial group to ensure close alignment with the Green Paper.”

Responding to the Statement, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) said:

“At no point today has the Minister confirmed how the Government intend to enact the will of the House in meeting the funding gap—and of course, shamefully, there was no mention of social care in the recent Budget... The Care Quality Commission has told us that the social care system still remains at a “tipping point”. Will she now confirm that the Government will enact the will of the House and meet the funding gap?”

In addition, Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) said:

“The Government announced recently, and the Minister confirmed today, that working-age people with disabilities would be consulted as part of a “parallel” work-stream to the Government’s Green Paper consultation. Why a parallel work-stream? This is an extremely short-sighted approach to reforming social care, and far from one that looks at the system in the round. Will she give us more details about the parallel work-stream for working-age people with disabilities who have social care needs?”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) said in response:

“Fundamentally, we are setting out, as has long been established, how to get a longer-term, sustainable system for funding our social care. It is absolutely clear from our debates during the past year that, as far as the public are concerned, there is a real lack of understanding about how, at present, the cost of care has to be met by the person who requires it. That is what leads to catastrophic care costs, and the dementia tax that she keeps mentioning, and that is exactly what we are going to tackle by having a cap on the overall cost. In doing so, it is very important to take the public with us and to have a fully informed public debate. It does not matter how far we think we have had such a debate in this place when legislating in the past, because it is quite clear that the public do not understand this. [Interruption.] We are only going to get public consent for a long-term solution if we have a public debate that is handled with maturity, and so far we have not seen very much of that...”

“On working-age adults, the hon. Lady is right to some extent in that there are some common issues in the adult social care system that affect both care for the elderly and care for working-age adults, and those common issues will be considered as part of the Green Paper process. At the same time, however, we are going through massive change in how we deal with people with disabilities. We have the very brave ambition of getting more and more people into work and we are on a journey of getting people with learning disabilities out of long-term residential care and into work in the community, and that brings a separate set of challenges. That work will go on in parallel, but the work on the Green Paper will look at the common issues as well as at the specific area of care for the elderly. I hope that gives her some reassurance. We cannot look at this in a silo—[Interruption.] She says this should all be looked at together, but care for the elderly and care for working-age adults face very distinct

	<p><i>challenges, and I do not think we should diminish either constituency by grouping them all together.”</i></p> <p>To read in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
<p><u>Lords debate</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>Statement –</u> <u>social care</u></p>	<p>During a debate in the House of Lords on the Autumn Budget, Baroness Pinnock (Liberal Democrats) said:</p> <p><i>“The Chancellor made no mention of the crisis in care for adults who depend on local authorities to fund all or part of their care. Those adults include older people—we often focus on that—and adults with complex physical and learning disabilities. The fact that there is a funding crisis is well-documented. A House of Commons Library briefing last month described adult social care as the largest discretionary budget of local authorities, and it is in crisis.</i></p> <p><i>In my own council, the combined proportion of the net council budget for adults and children’s social services is 70%—70% of the council’s total net budget is spent on the care of others. That ratio has grown significantly, across my council and all councils, as cuts are made in other services, such as road repairs and keeping libraries open, to enable care to be provided.</i></p> <p><i>However, the consequences of continued and substantial cuts in local authority spending by the reduction in central government grants, plus increasing numbers of older people in need of care and the rising costs in the care sector, have resulted in people not being able to get the care they need. One estimate is that there are 1 million people in this country who are not getting the care that ought to be provided. The reason for this, apart from the consequences of funding, is that councils are reducing eligibility criteria so that only those with the most urgent and complex needs qualify for care; everybody else is left to cater for themselves. The Local Government Association estimates that there will be a £2.3 billion funding gap by 2019-20. That is only for adult social care...”</i></p> <p><i>“Last month, prior to the Budget, the King’s Fund said that unless the Chancellor finds additional funding in the Budget, people will be denied the care they need. In 2016, the King’s Fund produced a report on the care sector that stated:</i></p> <p><i>“Access to care depends increasingly on what people can afford – and where they live – rather than on what they need”.</i></p> <p><i>It went on to state:</i></p> <p><i>“Local authorities have little room to make further savings, and most will soon be unable to meet basic statutory duties”.</i></p> <p><i>So the crisis is real and getting worse. That cannot be disputed...”</i></p> <p>She continued:</p> <p><i>“We have been promised a Green Paper—we have been promised one for a long time now—to lay out a long-term solution. We have had the Dilnot report, which you would have thought would be a sufficient solution. The Green Paper is now promised for next summer, but a Green Paper is a long way from a fundamental fix for the situation. Meanwhile, people struggle with daily and basic living needs.</i></p>

<p><u>Minister for International Development, Lord Bates' response</u></p>	<p><i>So I ask the Minister: do the Government agree that there is a funding crisis in adult social care and that there is duty on them to provide leadership and solutions with additional long-term funding?"</i></p> <p>Minister of State for International Development, Lord Bates responded by saying (Conservatives):</p> <p><i>"... There is a critical element that we need to bear in mind. One of the most staggering statistics we have come across is that there are some 15,000 centenarians living in the UK. From the population in this country living now, that figure will rise to some 10 million. Therefore, the issue to address in social care is intergenerational fairness...Those are vast concerns that will have to be addressed over the long term and reflected on.. There will have to be Green Papers and discussion papers. Some £2 billion was announced in the Spring Budget. That will have to be kept closely under review in the light of any Green Paper."</i></p>
<p><u>Oral question on what steps the Government is taking to ensure adult social care is adequately funded</u></p>	<p>Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, Clive Betts MP (Labour, Sheffield South East) has asked:</p> <p><i>"What steps he is taking to ensure that adult social care services are adequately funded?"</i></p> <p>The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid MP (Conservatives, Bromsgrove) responded by saying:</p> <p><i>"The Government recognise the pressures faced by local authorities and have provided additional dedicated funding for adult social care, including the £2 billion announced in the spring Budget."</i></p> <p>Clive Betts MP responded by stating:</p> <p><i>"In the Budget statement, the words "social care" did not pass the Chancellor's lips. Indeed, in response to a written question, he said that he really did not give any consideration to the funding needs for social care for the next financial year, although the Local Government Association estimates that there is a shortfall of about £3 billion. Does the Secretary of State agree with the Chancellor that no more money is needed for social care, or will he press the Chancellor for a rethink?"</i></p> <p>Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid MP (Conservatives, Bromsgrove) MP replied:</p> <p><i>"I thank the hon. Gentleman for the work that the Select Committee, under his leadership, does on social care. I listen carefully to the issues that he brings up, and I am sure he will recognise that this £2 billion over the next three years will make a huge difference, and means that £9.25 billion will be dedicated to this over the next three years. There are longer-term issues and some real challenges, and that is why we will bring forward a Green Paper on social care next year."</i></p> <p>Desmond Swayne MP (Conservatives, New Forest West) asked:</p> <p><i>"Are we abandoning Dilnot?"</i></p> <p>The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid MP (Conservatives, Bromsgrove) said:</p>

	<p><i>“The Government have rightly decided to look at a whole host of issues that have an impact on adult social care because of our ageing society. The appropriate approach is to take the time to get it right and have this Green Paper on adult social care.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on whether the Government plans to provide local authorities with additional funding to meet the sustainability shortfall identified in the Competition and Market Authority's report on the Care Home Market</u></p>	<p>Gill Furniss MP (Labour, Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans to provide local authorities with additional funding to meet the sustainability shortfall identified in the Competition and Market Authority's report of 30 November 2017 on the Care Home Market.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP's response (Conservatives, Thurrock):</p> <p><i>“The Budget in March 2017 announced an additional £2 billion to be given to councils over the next three years for social care.</i></p> <p><i>This additional funding means that councils have access in total to £9.25 billion more dedicated funding for social care over the next three years. One of the three key purposes of the additional funding is to assist councils in stabilising the local provider market.</i></p> <p><i>The Care Act 2014 placed a duty on local authorities in England to shape their local markets to ensure that they are sustainable, diverse and offer high quality care and support for people in their local area.</i></p> <p><i>The Competition and Market Authority's (CMA) market study into care homes, published on 30 November 2017, raises some complex and important issues for the care home market. The Government will publish a formal response to the CMA report within 90 days and will take forward these complex issues as part of the Green Paper on adult social care which will be published in summer 2018.”</i></p>

Hearing aids

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Written question on how many people have been supplied with hearing aids by age and gender in the last five years	<p>Jim Shannon MP (DUP, Strangford) has asked “<i>the Secretary of State for Health, how many people have been supplied with hearing aids by (a) age group and (b) gender, in each of the last five years.</i>”</p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP’s response (Conservatives, Thurrock):</p> <p>“<i>Information is not collected centrally on the age or gender of people prescribed hearing aids. In 2016, a total of 1,373,444 hearing aids were prescribed by the National Health Service.</i></p> <p><i>The table below shows data on hearing aids provided in the last four years.</i></p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>2014</th><th>2015</th><th>2016</th><th>2017</th><th>Increase 2014-17</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Total NHS</td><td>1,265,761</td><td>1,310,761</td><td>1,373,444</td><td>1,362,651</td><td>7.7%</td></tr><tr><td>Total Private</td><td>256,673</td><td>275,449</td><td>297,449</td><td>307,171</td><td>19.7%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Note: ¹Figures up to September 2017.</p>		2014	2015	2016	2017	Increase 2014-17	Total NHS	1,265,761	1,310,761	1,373,444	1,362,651	7.7%	Total Private	256,673	275,449	297,449	307,171	19.7%
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Cochlear Implants

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Written question on what progress the Government is making on finalising new proposals from NICE on cochlear implants	<p>Chair of the APPG on Deafness, Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Labour, Poplar and Limehouse) has asked:</p> <p>“<i>The Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to debate of 24 March 2017, HC Deb Volume 623, col 1111, on cochlear implantation, what progress his Department has made on finalising new proposals from NICE on cochlear implants.</i>”</p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Steve Brine MP’s response (Conservatives, Winchester and Chandler’s Ford):</p> <p>“<i>The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recently received a significant amount of information regarding its published technology appraisal guidance on cochlear implants and as a result it needs to conduct a more in-depth consideration which has resulted in a delay. NICE is in the process of analysing the evidence and aims to go out to consultation on a Review Proposal in early 2018. The Review decision will be published after the consultation.</i>”</p>
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Employment

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<p><u>Written question on Government timescales for halving the disability employment gap</u></p>	<p>Lord Touhig (Labour Peer) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty’s Government, following the consultation on their Green Paper Work, Health and Disability: Improving Lives, published in October 2016, what timescale they have established for halving the disability employment gap.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Baroness Buscombe (Conservatives) replied:</p> <p><i>“The Government is committed to improving employment outcomes for disabled people. We have underpinned this with our manifesto pledge to see one million more disabled people in employment in the next 10 years. We will shortly publish a document which will provide an update on the work we have been doing since the Green Paper consultation, respond to the consultation, and set out our next steps.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on where the Government has reallocated funding from the previous Work Programme and Work Choice to increase the employment opportunities of people with learning disability</u></p>	<p>Nick Thomas- Symonds MP (Labour, Torfaen) has asked: <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to where his Department has reallocated funding from the previous Work Programme and Work Choice to increase the employment opportunities of people with learning disability; and if he will make a statement.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP’s response (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth):</p> <p><i>“The Work and Health Programme, a new contracted provision that will build on lessons learnt from the Work Programme and Work Choice, will start in England and Wales between November 2017 and March 2018. Disabled people, who will be the majority of referrals, can volunteer for the programme at any time.</i></p> <p><i>On Thursday 30 November 2017 we published ‘Improving Lives the Future of Work, Health and Disability’, which sets out details of a lifecourse approach to improving employment opportunities for people with a Learning Disability</i></p> <p><i>In addition:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• We are introducing 200 Community Partners into Jobcentres - these are external appointments with experience of disability who will engage with disabled people, Jobcentre Plus staff and local employers to strengthen the support we offer disabled people seeking work, including those with learning disabilities.</i><i>• Supported Employment “place and train” will be delivered through the Local Supported Employment initiative. A key element of this is the use of Job Carving, which involves working with an employer to create a job which meets the employer’s needs and can be done by a person with a learning disability.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Supported Work Experience proof of concepts will offer young disabled people, including young people with learning disabilities, the opportunity to take part in short work experience placements.</i> • <i>Access to Work has put in place a Hidden Impairment Support Team that aims to give advice and guidance to help employers understand how they can support employees with conditions like a Learning Disability.</i> • <i>DWP's Disability Confident campaign has achieved commitments from over 5000 employers. DWP is requiring all its large contractors to be Disability Confident Leaders within 12 months from Jan 2017 and all main Government departments are now signed up to Disability Confident, ensuring that Government's contracted services become better employers of people with disabilities, including learning disabilities."</i>
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Transport

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<p><u>Written question on what steps are being taken to ensure the updated Department for Transport Accessibility Action Plan addresses recommendations of the Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 on audio-visual announcements on buses</u></p>	<p>Baroness Deech (Crossbench) has asked:</p> <p><i>"Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the updated version of the Department for Transport Accessibility Action Plan addresses the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability (Session 2015–16) regarding audio-visual announcements on buses."</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Baroness Sugg (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>"The Government's consultation on the draft transport Accessibility Action Plan closed on Wednesday 22nd November. The final version will be published in 2018 and will set out the Government's ambitions in this area based on the feedback provided. The final Plan will also set out the Government's timescale for delivery.</i></p> <p><i>The Government remains committed to introducing an Accessible Information Requirement, expanding the provision of audible and visible information to local bus services across Great Britain, so helping passengers to travel with greater confidence."</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what steps are being taken to implement recommendations made by the Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability to ensure that no</u></p>	<p>Baroness Deech (Crossbench) has asked:</p> <p><i>"Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement the recommendation, made by the Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability (Session 2015–16), to ensure that no taxi driver or private hire vehicle driver is licensed without having undertaken disability equality training; and whether they have any plans to introduce statutory guidance to that end."</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Baroness Sugg (Conservatives) responded:</p>

<p><u>taxi driver or private hire vehicle driver is licensed without having undertaken disability equality training</u></p>	<p><i>“Taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) services must be accessible to those who rely upon them, and disability awareness training can be effective in equipping drivers with the skills and knowledge to provide all passengers with the assistance they require. The Department is currently considering the responses to the consultation on the draft Accessibility Action Plan which will inform the updated Best Practice Guidance for taxi and PHV licensing authorities.</i></p> <p><i>It is the Department’s expectation that the guidance will include a recommendation that authorities should use their existing powers to require prospective drivers to complete disability awareness and equality training. There are however no existing powers to give this guidance statutory status.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, my Right Honourable Friend, the Minister of State for Transport, announced in a Westminster Hall debate that he would be setting up a working group to consider current issues concerning taxi and PHV licensing such as this and it will be reporting its findings in the New Year.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what steps the Government are taking to ensure that shared spaces meet the needs of disabled people</u></p>	<p>Baroness Deech (Crossbench) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty’s Government what steps they are taking to ensure that shared space schemes address the needs of disabled people; and whether they intend to commit, in the Department for Transport Accessibility Action Plan, to update the 2011 Local Transport Note, as recommended by the Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability (Session 2015–16).”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Baroness Sugg (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>“Local authorities are responsible for the design of their public spaces and have a duty to take account of the needs of disabled people. The Government is absolutely clear that the needs of the whole community should be considered when councils are looking to introduce any public realm scheme, including shared space.</i></p> <p><i>The Department for Transport has been working with the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) on its review of shared space and other street design schemes. The review has considered a wide range of issues regarding shared space, and we expect CIHT’s report to make recommendations for further work, including in relation to current guidance. The Government will respond to those recommendations in due course.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on when the Government plans to issue guidance and regulations on audio-visual announcements</u></p>	<p>Iain Stewart MP (Conservatives, Milton Keynes South) has asked <i>“ the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Bus Services Act 2017, when he plans to issue the guidance and regulations on audio-visual next stop announcements.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Jesse Norman MP’s response (Conservatives, Hereford and South Herefordshire):</p>

	<p><i>“The Bus Services Act 2017 incorporates powers to introduce an Accessible Information Requirement, mandating the provision of audible and visible information on local bus services in Great Britain.</i></p> <p><i>We are currently working with stakeholders to develop the detail of the requirement, including timescales for its implementation, with a view to consulting publicly in 2018. Following consideration of the consultation responses, we expect to publish Regulations and accompanying guidance when the Parliamentary timetable permits.”</i></p>
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Disability benefits

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<p><u>Written question on how many people eligible for the Employment and Support Allowance work-related activity group are not eligible for the work-related activity under provisions in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016</u></p>	<p>Neil Gray MP (SNP, Airdrie and Shotts) has asked the “<i>Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people in the Employment Support Allowance work-related activity group are not eligible for the work-related activity component under the provisions of s15 of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.</i>”</p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP’s response (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth):</p> <p><i>“The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on how many people aged 65-69, previously awarded disability living allowance, have had an award reduced or received no award.</u></p>	<p>Dr Philippa Whitford MP (SNP, Central Ayrshire) has asked “<i>the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September 2017 to Question 7357, how many of the 88,920 people aged 65-69 previously awarded disability living allowance who were reassessed as a personal independence payments case have (a) had an award reduced or (b) received no award.</i>”</p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP’s response (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth):</p> <p><i>“The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on whether the Government is required to consider all evidence in support of an individual's</u></p>	<p>Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked “<i>the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department is required to consider all evidence in support of an individual's application for Personal Independence Payment if that evidence is submitted before the Department's stated deadline for the application.</i>”</p>

<p><u>application for Personal Independence Payments if that evidence is submitted before the Department's stated deadline for the application</u></p>	<p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP's response (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth):</p> <p><i>“When making their decision, case managers will look at all the available evidence to determine eligibility for PIP. Additional evidence can be submitted at any point up to where the case manager makes a decision. It’s a requirement that the PIP 2 questionnaire is returned within the deadline given, although rules and procedures allow claimants additional time to complete the form where that is reasonably required.”</i></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