

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring September 2020

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

Key dates

Labour conference (online): 19-22 September
 Lib Dem conference (online): 25-28 September
 Conservative conference (online): 4-7 October
 31 December: Brexit extension period ends

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
28/08/20	Press release	CCN	New analysis reveals that single unitary councils could deliver £3bn saving over five years and 'maximise' the benefits of economic growth and housing policy here
01/09/2	Press release	CCN	District Councils Network report on local government reform: CCN response here
16/09/20	Written question	HoL - MHCLG	<p>Local Government: Coronavirus and Devolution – UIN HL7955</p> <p>Lord Allen Of Kensington: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they plan to have with leaders of each of the combined authorities in England about (1) further devolution of powers, and (2) increased funding, to aid the economic recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh: Ministers meet regularly with the leaders of the combined authorities in England, both bilaterally and as a group. Forthcoming meetings will include discussions on economic recovery, the Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper, and priorities for the Spending Review. Here</p>
22/09/20	Oral answers	HoL - MHCLG	<p>Devolution in England - Hansard Vol 805</p> <p>Lord Foulkes Of Cumnock: To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to further devolution in England.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh (The Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government): We intend to publish the devolution and local recovery White Paper in the autumn. This will set out our plans for expanding devolution across England to support economic recovery and levelling up,</p>

			<p>building on the success of our directly elected combined authority mayors.</p> <p>Lord Foulkes Of Cumnock (Lab Co-op): My Lords, does the Minister accept that while there is major devolution of powers to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, there is a democratic deficit in England? So will the White Paper, when it comes out, include the devolution of real power to major regions throughout the whole of England?</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh (Con): My Lords, there are ways for government to provide support to the devolved Administrations and across borders. I point the noble Lord to the borderlands growth deal as one such way of being able to achieve that. We are not looking at top-down devolution, but focusing on local city and growth deals as the way forward. More here</p>
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Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Urban Areas: Finance: Written question – 78496</p> <p>Sir John Hayes (South Holland and The Deepings): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to increase investment in town centre.</p> <p>Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland): Our town centres and high streets have an important role to play as we drive growth across the country; creating jobs, nurturing small businesses and injecting billions of pounds into our economy. Our £3.6 billion Towns Fund is key to delivering this, and through the Future High Streets Fund and Town Deals we will drive the economic regeneration of our high streets and towns centres to provide long term economic growth and improved productivity across the country. here</p>
02/09/20	Written statement	DWP	DWP Kickstart Scheme Launch: Written statement - HCWS433

Made by: Dr Thérèse Coffey (The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions)

Today we are launching the Kickstart scheme, which was announced by the Chancellor as part of Our Plan for Jobs in his statement on 8th July. This £2 billion programme will fund the direct creation of additional jobs focused on young people at risk of long-term unemployment to improve their chances of progressing to find long-term, sustainable work.

As we build back our economy and return to work we know that for many young people a lack of work experience can be a barrier to taking that first step on the jobs' ladder. That is why we are taking steps to help young people gain experience through the Kickstart Scheme and a foothold in the world of work. The scheme is open to employers from across the private, public and voluntary sectors. Through the scheme, employers will be able to access a large pool of young people with lots to offer, ready for an opportunity.

Organisations of all sizes are encouraged to participate. Organisations with a small number of placements will be expected to bid through intermediaries or umbrella organisations like local enterprise partnerships, business trade associations or local government, ensuring the necessary support is in place to enable them to deliver placements effectively.

Employers will need to show that these are additional jobs and that the Kickstart role will provide the experience and support a young person needs to improve their chances of permanent employment.

People will be referred through the Jobcentre Plus network. Employers will be able to interview candidates for the roles they offer. Funding available for each job will cover the relevant National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions, and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. It will also include £1500 for start-up and wrap around support for people of a Kickstart placement. Today we are calling for employers to bid to be involved in the scheme, with the first job placements expected to begin in November. The bid application and

			information to support employers will be available online through www.gov.uk/kickstart Here
07/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Local Government Finance: Coronavirus - UIN 84273</p> <p><u>Colleen Fletcher (Coventry North East):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding his Department has provided to each local authority to help them deal with the effect of the covid-19 outbreak. [84273]</p> <p><u>Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland):</u> We have provided councils with an unprecedented package of support, allocating £4.3 billion of support for spending pressures, including £3.7 billion of un-ringfenced grants and the £600 million Infection Control Fund. This direct financial support the Government has provided is part of comprehensive package of support which includes cashflow measures, support for the homeless, and for bus and tram services – not to mention grants and business rates reliefs for businesses. In total, the Government has committed almost £28 billion to local areas to support councils, businesses and communities. Full information on the amount each council has received from the £3.7 billion of un-ringfenced grants, as well as other measures, can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-emergency-funding-for-local-government The Government has also introduced a co-payment scheme to compensate local councils for irrecoverable and unavoidable losses from sales, fees and charges income generated in the delivery of services, in the financial year 2020/21. Councils will absorb the first 5 per cent of all relevant, irrecoverable losses compared to budgets, with the Government compensating councils for 75p in every pound of loss thereafter.</p> <p>The Government has also confirmed that it will extend the period over which councils must manage shortfalls in local tax income relating to 2020-21, from 1 to 3 years. This will ease immediate pressures on authorities when budget setting for 2021-22, protecting their ability to deliver essential</p>

			local services. We will announce further details of how it will also support local authorities to manage tax losses at the comprehensive spending review later in the year. Here
07/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Markets: Coronavirus - UIN 84261 Anne Marie Morris (Newton Abbot): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to support indoor market retailers during the economic recovery from the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland): The Government has delivered one of the most generous and comprehensive packages of support globally, with a total fiscal response of close to £200 billion. Many of the measures introduced, including loan schemes, tax deferrals, Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme remain open and have been designed to be accessible to businesses in most sectors and across the UK. Eligible market stalls with a rateable value could also benefit from flat rate payments of £10,000 under the grant scheme for the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors. Moreover, in recognition that some market traders were excluded from this grant fund because of the way they interact with the business rates system, the Government encouraged local authorities to include these businesses as a priority group for the Discretionary Grant Fund</p> <p>In terms of rent assistance, the Government encourages tenants to continue to pay their rent in full where they are in a position to do so, although we recognise that others may not be in this position. We welcome the fact that many local authorities and other operators have been able to be flexible in their approach and negotiate suitable arrangements including rent concessions for a significant number of market traders in support of the industry, recognising the financial strain the pandemic has placed on their finances. Here</p>
07/09/20	Report	HoC Library	Support for the tourism industry after the Covid-19 lockdown here
10/09/20	Written question	BEIS	Renewable Energy: Job Creation - UIN 84218

			<p><u>Mrs Pauline Latham (Mid Derbyshire):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he plans to take to encourage the creation of new jobs in the renewable energy sector as part of the economic recovery from the effect of covid-19. [84218]</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne):</u> As we recover from COVID-19, the Government intends to deliver a UK economy which is greener, more sustainable and more resilient. The UK already has over 460,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains and it is estimated that the low-carbon economy could grow more than four times faster than the rest of the economy between 2015 and 2030 and support up to 2 million jobs.</p> <p>The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is the government's main mechanism for supporting new large-scale renewable electricity generation projects in Great Britain. In the latest CfD allocation round 12 new renewable electricity projects were awarded contracts at record low costs across a range of technologies, which could see the creation of 8,000 jobs across the UK. Offshore wind employs around 14,000 people in the UK. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal that was agreed last year between the government and industry aims to increase UK employment to 27,000 jobs by 2030 - these jobs will support communities right across the UK. Here</p>
14/09/20	Press release	Defra	<p>Government's £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund opens for applications here</p>
22/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund - UIN 88280</p> <p><u>Richard Fuller (North East Bedfordshire):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what proportion of local authorities with excess funding under Phase 1 of the Coronavirus local authority discretionary grants scheme (a) kept all their criteria unaltered for subsequent phases and (b) amended the criteria to widen eligibility for subsequent phases of that scheme.</p> <p><u>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate):</u> On 1 May, Government announced up to £617 million available in the form of the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund to support</p>

			certain small businesses that are not liable for business rates or rates relief and are therefore out of scope of the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund. Local authorities were responsible for defining precise eligibility for the scheme in their area, subject to businesses meeting the national eligibility criteria set out in the guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding . We do not receive management information from local authorities on local scheme eligibility criteria over the lifetime of the Discretionary Grants Fund. Here
24/09/20	Report	Treasury	Winter Economy Plan - The Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the Winter Economy Plan to Parliament on 24 September 2020. This is the Winter Economy Plan document. The full Winter Economy Plan can be found here .

Energy projects – local authority

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Special Areas of Conservation - UIN 82612</p> <p>Olivia Blake (Sheffield, Hallam): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he will take to integrate areas that are designated as special areas of conservation into the regulatory framework set out in the Environment Bill 2020. [82612]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Special areas of conservation (SACs), along with special protection areas (SPAs), are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. These sites are included within the definition of 'national conservation sites' as set out in the Environment Bill. National conservation sites are to be included within 'habitat maps', which will be part of local nature recovery strategies. More generally, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), established under the Environment Bill, will have a broad environmental remit. It includes environmental law which is</p>

			defined as including all domestic legislation (other than devolved provisions, or those concerned with a specifically excluded matter), to the extent that they are concerned with one or more of a set of environmental protections. here
08/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection - UIN 81982</p> <p>Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make it his policy to (a) commission independent annual reviews of the implementation of the 25 Year Environment Plan and (b) make a statement to Parliament when updates to that plan are published.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The 25 Year Environment Plan will be adopted as the first statutory Environment Improvement Plan (EIP) in the Environment Bill. The Bill also establishes a new, independent statutory body – the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) – which will have a statutory duty to monitor and report on the Government's progress in improving the natural environment in accordance with the EIP. The Bill also makes provision for a cycle of monitoring, planning and reporting on EIPs that comprises annual progress reports by the Government to Parliament, regular scrutiny by the OEP and five-yearly reviews of the EIP. The Government's annual reports will include an assessment of the steps taken to implement the EIP, as well as an assessment of environmental improvement. The OEP will scrutinise the Government's annual report and may recommend how progress could be improved, to which the Government must respond. Every five years, the Government must review its EIP and consider whether further measures need to be adopted. If the EIP is revised, the updated EIP must be published, alongside a statement explaining the revisions, and laid before Parliament. Here</p>
08/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation - UIN 81981</p> <p>Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the 2020 25 Year Environment Plan progress update, what steps the Government (a) is taking and (b) plans to take to reach its target to restore 75 per cent of protected wildlife sites to favourable condition by 2042.</p>

			<p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> There are a range of management mechanisms currently in place aimed at maintaining or restoring protected wildlife sites in or to a favourable condition. These include those delivered through Countryside Stewardship and broader strategic action such as catchment sensitive farming, to improve air and water quality in high priority areas. Natural England is also working to improve the efficiency of SSSI monitoring, which will make better use of new technologies, such as remote sensing and greater partnership involvement.</p> <p>We are exploring the use of powers in the Environment Bill to strengthen our commitment to improving the condition of our protected sites on land and in the sea by setting a target in law, as set out in our recently published policy paper on environmental targets. In addition, we plan to publish a Nature Strategy in 2021, following the agreement of the post-2020 global framework under the Convention of Biological Diversity, which will set out further detail on our action for protected sites.</p> <p>Here</p>
08/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme - UIN 81482</p> <p><u>Dr Alan Whitehead (Southampton, Test):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision not to extend the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive scheme on (a) jobs and (b) businesses in the heating industry.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne):</u> The Non-Domestic RHI has provided support for over 20,000 renewable heating installations, creating green jobs, and helping to develop the GB renewable heating industry. The breadth and cost of an extension to the Non-Domestic RHI means that to provide good value for money for the taxpayer, we are applying a targeted approach in continuing support for the Non-Domestic low carbon heating industry. The Green Gas Support Scheme, due to launch Autumn 2021, is expected to help treble the level of green gas in the grid by 2030, creating further green jobs, particularly in rural areas. Sustained support for the industry will be provided through the</p>

			<p>new allocation of Tariff Guarantees, incentivising the more cost-effective Non-Domestic projects. We have also been keen to avoid potential job losses and damage to the industry that might result from delays due to Covid-19. Recently announcing an extension of 6 months for eligible NDRHI projects, that may struggle to meet the 31 st March 2021 application deadline. Additionally, the soon to be launched Green Homes Grant Scheme which will fund up to two thirds of the cost of home improvements for over 600,000 homes, supporting over 80,000 jobs in green construction. More here</p>
10/09/20	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Deforestation - 905805 Ruth Edwards (Con) (Rushcliffe): What steps he is taking to prevent deforestation.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Recognising that commodity supply chains are a major driver of deforestation, the Government established the global resource initiative taskforce. Following the taskforce's recommendations, we are currently consulting on proposals for a new world-leading due diligence law and working to forge an international alliance on supply chains at COP26. UK international climate finance is also used to protect the world's most biodiverse forests, with £5.8 billion committed between 2016 and 2021.</p> <p>Ruth Edwards: I thank my hon. Friend for her answer, and I welcome the Government's consultation in this area. May I urge her to make our landmark Environment Bill even more world-leading by including legislative measures on due diligence?</p> <p>Rebecca Pow: I thank my hon. Friend for being on the ball about the Environment Bill in particular, which will be back before the House very soon and will deliver the Government's manifesto commitment to deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth. We understand the eagerness about measures in relation to due diligence, but we do not want to anticipate the outcome of the consultation. Any decisions on the next steps on these measures will be confirmed in the Government's formal response to the consultation, which will be published after the consultation closes on 5 October, but we are very positive about it. Here</p>

17/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Plants: Urban Areas – UIN 87610</p> <p><u>Catherine West (Hornsey and Wood Green):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to protect vegetation in the urban environment.</p> <p><u>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth):</u> The forthcoming Environment Bill will include measures to protect urban vegetation including new powers to establish local nature recovery strategies with local business and communities, including those in urban areas. We are also mandating biodiversity net gain through the Environment Bill, which will mean that a gain of at least 10 per cent in habitats for wildlife, including trees and woodland, must be achieved by any proposed developments.</p> <p>We have also committed to the protection of trees by establishing the Tree Preservation Order (TPO). The system allows local authorities to protect trees and woodlands so that they can continue providing ecological, health, cultural and economic benefits to current and future generations. An Order makes it an offence to cut down, prune, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree covered by that Order without the local authority's written permission. More information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has ensured that the planning system provides protection for locally, nationally and internationally designated wildlife sites, and irreplaceable habitats including ancient and veteran trees through the National Planning Policy Framework. Further information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</p> <p>The Government has recently announced £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund in England. The fund will support projects that are ready to deliver and focus on nature restoration, nature-based solutions and engagement with nature. The fund will protect up to 2000 jobs and create</p>
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			up to 3000 more whilst delivering against the goals of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. Further information on the fund can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-40-million-green-jobs-challenge-fund . here
22/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Lighting: Pollution Control - UIN 89904 Andrew Griffith (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to (a) strengthen protections against light pollution and (b) increase the number of Dark Sky reserves.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government has put in place a range of measures to ensure that light pollution is effectively managed through controls in the planning system; the statutory nuisance regime, and when improvements are made to street lighting. My department has worked with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Transport to ensure that the National Planning Policy Framework policies include consideration of the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation, including where there may be impacts on wildlife and eco-systems.</p> <p>Defra 's 25 Year Environment Plan will also deliver benefits including promoting access to stargazing. Across the UK's 15 National Parks there are a number of locations that have been awarded International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Discovery Site status. Defra has no formal role in the Dark Sky designation process as it is non-governmental and non-statutory. The Independent Review of Landscapes recommended, 'A night under the stars in a national landscape for every child.' The Government has welcomed the Review and will respond in due course. We are committed to increasing opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy the benefits of spending meaningful time in our national landscapes in England. Here</p>
22/09/20	Notice of Amendments	HoC	Environment Bill 2019-21: Notice of Amendments here
28/09/20	Written questions	Defra	Water: Conservation - UIN 94513

			<p>Stephanie Peacock (Barnsley East): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference his Department's 25 year environment plan progress report of 11 June 2020, what recent assessment he has made on progress towards meeting the Government's long-term target of at least three-quarters of water bodies, including rivers, lakes, canals, coastal waters, and groundwater, to be restored to as close as possible to their natural state.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Environment Agency's latest water body classification results 2019 showed that 16% of waters overall and 14 % of rivers are at Good Ecological Status. This is the same result as the data for 2016 which means progress in improving the ecological status of England 's surface water has plateaued. More needs to be done and we need to go further and faster. The Government remains committed to bringing at least three quarters of our water to as close as possible to its natural state as soon as is practicable and in support of this, we will be bringing forward a further legally binding target in the Environment Bill. We are tackling pollution from poor farming practice with regulation, financial incentives and educational schemes for farmers. Water company investment is being scaled up to £4.6 billion, the highest yet, in the next five-year period. A new task force comprising the Government and water companies will help address the problem of sewage discharge from storm overflows and our new chemicals strategy will build on a robust statutory regime to ensure chemicals are managed and handled safely. here</p>
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Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Written question: Air Pollution: Health Hazards</p> <p>Joy Morrissey (Beaconsfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will include a target date for implementing WHO air quality standards in the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government is committed to tackling a</p>

			<p>diversity of pollutants which harm human health and the environment. We already have ambitious and statutory emission reduction ceilings in place for five key air pollutants, as well as legally binding concentration limits. However, the case for even more ambitious action on fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) is especially strong, as it is the pollutant that has the most significant impact on health.</p> <p>The Environment Bill establishes a legally binding duty to set a target for PM 2.5, in addition to a long-term air quality target. We are committed to setting ambitious targets and following an evidence-based process, seeking advice from a range of experts, in addition to giving consideration to the World Health Organization 's air quality guidelines. The targets will be set in secondary legislation at the end of this process. It would not be an effective approach to policy making to commit in primary legislation to delivering a target, without giving due consideration to its achievability and the measures required to meet that target. Stakeholders, Parliament and the public will have the opportunity to comment on, and input into, the process of developing this target. here</p>
04/09/20	Written question	Dft	<p>Biofuels - UIN 78907 Matt Vickers (Stockton South): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the introduction of E10 on UK (a) carbon emissions and (b) air pollution.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): The document "Introducing E10 Petrol: consultation", published by the Department in March 2020, notes that a switch to E10 could cut overall transport CO2 emissions by 750,000 tonnes per year, if it is combined with an increase to Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) targets. It also noted that we do not expect moving to E10 to deliver significant air quality benefits. Here</p>
04/09/20	Written question	Dft	<p>Biofuels consultation - UIN78906 Matt Vickers (Stockton South): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the Answer of 2 May 2020 to Question 46196 on Biofuels, when his Department plans to publish its response to the Consultation on the Introduction of E10; and if he will publish that response before</p>

			<p>the House returns from recess in September 2020.</p> <p><u>Rachel Maclean (Redditch)</u>: The Department aims to publish the Government response to our consultation on the introduction of E10, which closed in May, as early as possible this year.</p>
08/09/20	Press release	EA	<p>Investing in nature is an investment in the NHS, says Environment Agency Chief Executive here</p>
10/09/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste - UIN 905824</p> <p><u>Selaine Saxby (North Devon)</u>: What steps he is taking to tackle plastic pollution.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: We have made real progress in tackling plastic pollution. We have introduced a microbead ban and reduced single-use plastic carrier bag usage by 95% in the main supermarkets. We are increasing the single-use carrier bag charge to 10p and extending it to all retailers and we are restricting the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton-buds. We are seeking powers in the Environment Bill to charge for single-use plastic items, make recycling more consistent and reform packaging waste regulations. here</p>
10/09/20	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Air Quality - 905808</p> <p><u>Ruth Cadbury (Lab) (Brentford and Isleworth)</u>: What representations he has received on the potential merits of amending the Environment Bill's provisions on air quality.</p> <p><u>Navendu Mishra (Lab) (Stockport)</u>: What representations he has received on the potential merits of amending the Environment Bill 's provisions on air quality.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow</u>: Measures to improve air quality are a key part of the Environment Bill, and we have engaged with stakeholders through the development of these measures to ensure that they are ambitious and impactful. We are confident that these measures, including the commitments to set two air quality targets, will deliver real benefits for air quality, and we will continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, parliamentarians and the public as we work to implement these measures.</p> <p>Ruth Cadbury: Until lockdown, air pollution blighted the life expectancy and health of many of my constituents and, as traffic</p>

			<p>levels are starting to rise again, we are seeing the same problems of air pollution arise. Will the Government commit to including the World Health Organisation's guideline on air pollution limits in the Environment Bill, and will they also include particulate matter as well as nitrogen dioxide in the legally binding targets?</p> <p>Rebecca Pow: As I have said, we have two air quality targets already in the Environment Bill and the WHO 's PM 2.5 is on there. We will consult on exactly how that will come through, which is absolutely right. All experts agree with that. The hon. Lady makes good points about coronavirus and the impact on air quality. The Air Quality Expert Group and others have done some very useful and significant research, which will be looked at in great detail to ensure that the right measures are coming forward. More here</p>
15/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 85938</p> <p>Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities are making people aware of air quality levels in their areas.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Through the statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) framework, local authorities are required to assess air quality in their area and prepare an Annual Status Report providing a summary of the state of local air quality, associated health impacts and the progress on actions the local authority is taking to improve air quality. LAQM statutory guidance requires the local authority to make these reports available to the public and local stakeholders through their website.</p> <p>Defra 's Air Quality Grant scheme provides funding to local authorities and supports schemes which help councils develop and implement measures to benefit local communities, including campaigns to promote greater air quality awareness. In the Environment Bill we are mandating a regular cycle of reviews for the Air Quality Strategy, and this will provide an opportunity to outline measures focused on protecting those most vulnerable to air pollution. Here</p>

15/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 85939</p> <p>Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities have the (a) knowledge and (b) capacity to tackle local air pollution.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Under the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) framework, local authorities are responsible for mitigation of air pollution hot spots in areas where people may be exposed. Defra provides technical and policy guidance to local authorities to assist them in meeting these LAQM responsibilities. Defra also provides technical support to local authorities via a dedicated local air quality management Helpdesk (phone, email and webpage) and calculation tools to support local authorities in their monitoring and modelling efforts.</p> <p>Through the Environment Bill we are improving the LAQM framework to enable greater local action on air pollution by widening the range of bodies that play a role in improving local air quality, including neighbouring local authorities and relevant public bodies, ensuring action is taken by all key players to tackle local pollution sources and to improve air quality locally. We have also committed to a review of the National Air Quality Strategy, which will look to build the capacity of local delivery partners to effectively tackle localised air quality issues. Here</p>
17/09/20	Defra	Written question	<p>Air Pollution – UIN 87483</p> <p>Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that upcoming legislative proposals protect air quality.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): This Government takes its air quality obligations seriously and the world-leading Clean Air Strategy, published in January 2019, sets out the comprehensive action required across all parts of Government to improve air quality for everyone. The Environment Bill delivers key parts of this Strategy. It introduces a duty to set a legally-binding target for fine particulate matter concentrations, the pollutant of greatest harm to human health, alongside a duty to</p>

			set a further long-term air quality target. It also ensures that local authorities have a clear framework and simple to use powers to address air quality in their areas; and provides government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles. Alongside this, the Bill will include a UK Environmental Protections policy which will allow for greater transparency and strengthened scrutiny by Parliament regarding future environmental legislation, including on air quality. Here
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Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Aviation: Renewable Energy: Written question - 78485</p> <p>Ed Davey (Kingston and Surbiton): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential timescale for all UK internal flights to be able to be powered through (a) electric- battery, (b) hydrogen and (c) other such sustainable sources of energy; and if he will make a statement. [78485]</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The Government has a wide range of programmes and challenges that can support research and technology on electric and hydrogen powered flight. These include the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) Programme (£1.95 billion public funding commitment, 2013 to 2026); Future Flight Challenge (£125 million public funding); Faraday Challenge (£246 million); and Driving the Electric Revolution Challenge (£80 million). Our ATI programme is supporting electric and hydrogen power flight projects, and our publicly funded FlyZero initiative, announced on 20 July, will bring together experts from across the aviation and aerospace sector to tackle issues in designing and building a commercially successful zero-emission aircraft. here</p>
02/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Written question: Imports: Carbon Emissions</p> <p>Geraint Davies (Swansea West): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the level of carbon emissions embedded in goods imported to the UK. [77497]</p>

			<p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The latest figures show carbon dioxide (CO 2) emissions associated with imported goods fell by 1% between 2016 and 2017, and by 16% between 2007 (when they peaked) and 2017. The latest figures published are at: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-carbon-footprint but they focus on greenhouse gas emissions rather than just CO 2 emissions. Consumption emissions are officially categorised as "experimental statistics" due to inherent uncertainties in the estimates produced. The UK's GHG emissions statistics used for the purposes of measuring progress against the net zero target are calculated in line with the standard international accounting approach for measuring emissions as established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy for England sets out its ambition to move from a make, take, use, throw linear economic model to a more circular economy which will reduce our carbon footprint from imported emissions through increasing repair, reuse, remanufacture and other waste prevention activities. The Environment Bill includes measures that will help consumers to make purchasing decisions that support the market for more sustainable products. It contains powers to introduce clear product labelling, which will enable consumers to identify products that are more durable, repairable and recyclable and will inform them on how to dispose of used products. here</p>
02/09/20	EDM	HoC	<p>Climate and ecological emergency bill: Early Day Motions here</p>
03/09/20	Oral question	HoL	<p>Tree planting – vol 805</p> <p>Lord Colgrain: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the rate of tree planting.</p> <p>The Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park): My Lords, we committed to increasing planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025 in line with the Committee on Climate Change recommendations. We are consulting on a new England tree strategy to drive this change in England and to shape the</p>

			deployment of the £640 million Nature for Climate Fund... more here
03/09/20	Speech	BEIS	Opening address by Alok Sharma , COP26 President and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, at the Online Platform on Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19. Here
04/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate change - UIN 82005</p> <p>Margaret Greenwood (Wirral West): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the ability of local authorities to help tackle the climate emergency at a local level.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): BEIS launched the Local Energy programme in 2017 to support local authorities in taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote clean growth. Almost £20 million has been invested in the programme to date, funding a range of measures designed to build local capacity and capability. This includes creating five Local Energy Hubs across England, which provide Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and local authorities with access to expertise to help them develop plans to secure investment in low carbon projects. The programme has also funded the production of an energy strategy for every LEP area, the production of good practice guidance and resources, a finance conference and regional workshops, and the £10 million re-launch of the Rural Community Energy Fund. Here</p>
07/09/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Public Expenditure: Climate Change - UIN 77557</p> <p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the conditions that Departments have been asked to meet as part of preparations for the Comprehensive Spending Review as set out on 21 July 2020 include compatibility with (a) the recommendations set out in the Committee on Climate Change annual progress report published on 24 June 2020 on actions needed to meet currently legislated carbon budgets, (b) the Paris climate agreement, (c) the Government's nature and biodiversity goals and priorities at national and international level and the (d) Sustainable Development Goals; and if he will make a statement. [77557]</p>

			<p><u>Steve Barclay (North East Cambridgeshire):</u> This Government takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and is committed to meeting its climate change and environmental targets. The UK has legislated to end its contribution to global warming by 2050 under the Climate Change Act 2008, following recommendations from the CCC on setting a Paris -aligned target. Our priorities for the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) have been published and include leading in the development of technologies that will support the Government's ambition to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050. To help frame the Government's approach at the CSR, an interim report of the Net Zero Review will be published this Autumn, followed by a final report in the Spring. Departments will be required to fulfil a series of conditions in their CSR returns, including considering climate and other environmental impacts in all proposals. here</p>
08/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Energy: Conservation - UIN 82120 <u>Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the potential merits of designating energy efficiency as a national infrastructure priority; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne):</u> The Government is committed to delivering our net zero target and will take further steps to decarbonise the UK economy, including through the future publication of a National Infrastructure Strategy. The Government is also planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course, which will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from all homes and buildings and set buildings on track for net zero.</p> <p>The Government remains committed to delivering the aspiration set out in the Clean Growth Strategy, to help as many homes as possible to reach EPC Band C by 2035, where practical, affordable and cost-effective. My Rt. Hon. Friend Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer recently announced a net zero building package</p>

			worth in excess of £3bn. This new funding represents a significant and accelerated down payment on decarbonising buildings, to help stimulate the economic recovery and create green jobs. Here
09/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Biofuels: Imports - UIN 83887 Helen Hayes (Dulwich and West Norwood): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the methodology it uses to measure the impact of UK biomass imports on the forests from which those imports are sourced; and what plans his Department has to review that methodology.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The criteria used to ensure that only sustainably sourced biomass is used within our power sector is effective in protecting biodiversity and carbon stock in forests where biomass is sourced and requires biomass fuels to be derived from forest waste wood and residues. In their 'Biomass in a low-carbon economy' report the Committee on Climate Change stated the evidence suggests that the UK's bioenergy sustainability rules are helping to limit sustainability risks. Those sites using biomass with a capacity greater than or equal to 1 megawatt must also prepare an annual sustainability report compiled by a third party auditor/verifier which provides assurance that biomass is from sustainable sources. Here</p>
10/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate Change Convention - UIN 86012 Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make it his policy to publish the advice his Department is receiving from the Committee on Climate Change on the Government's planned Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): We expect the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) to include advice on the Nationally Determined Contribution when they publish advice on the Sixth Carbon Budget in December. The CCC will make this publicly available. Here</p>

10/09/20	Written question	Treasury	<p>Climate Change Convention - UIN 86013 Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make it his policy to support the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change on the UK's intended Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden): The UK has committed to coming forward with an increased Nationally Determined Contribution well ahead of COP26. In setting the Nationally Determined Contribution the government will take into account a range of factors and be informed by advice from the UK's independent Committee on Climate Change. Here</p>
10/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 86014 Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make it his policy to implement the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change on the UK's planned Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The UK has committed to coming forward with an increased Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) well ahead of COP26. In setting the NDC the Government will take into account a range of factors and be informed by advice from the UK's independent Committee on Climate Change. Here</p>
15/09/20	Question	HoL - BEIS	<p>Climate Change Convention - HL7750 Baroness Bennett Of Manor Castle: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to submit an upgraded nationally determined contributions plan for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference by the deadline at the end of the year; and what steps they are taking as chair of that conference to encourage other nations to meet that deadline.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: As part of our incoming COP Presidency, in partnership with Italy, we are urging all countries to come forward with new NDCs representing their highest possible ambition as soon as possible – and noting the expectation in</p>

			<p>the Paris Agreement that NDCs are submitted in 2020. The UK will play its part and we are preparing to come forward with an enhanced NDC well ahead of COP26. It is our priority in doing so to contribute to the greatest possible momentum and ambition ahead of COP26. here</p>
15/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions – UIN 88350 <u>Carol Monaghan (Glasgow North West)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what progress his Department has made towards submitting updated Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne)</u>: As incoming COP26 President, the UK is urging all Parties to come forward with more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The UK is working on the same basis and is preparing to come forward with an increased NDC well ahead of COP26. Here</p>
15/09/20	Oral answers	HM Treasury	<p>Energy-Efficient Homes: Support - 906056 <u>Mr William Wragg (Con) (Hazel Grove)</u>: What financial support he is providing to upgrade the energy efficiency of homes.</p> <p><u>Kemi Badenoch (The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury)</u>: The Government recognise the importance of energy efficiency in achieving our climate change objectives and tackling fuel poverty. That is why in July my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced over £2 billion of new funding to upgrade homes through the green homes grant scheme. In addition, we have a range of policies in place to support home energy efficiency improvements.</p> <p>Mr Wragg: What assessment has my hon. Friend made of the benefits of this ambitious £2 billion scheme for home insulation, and when will my constituents be able to access it to make those improvements to their homes?</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch: From the end of September, homeowners and landlords across England, including in my hon. Friend's constituency, will be able to apply for vouchers to fund at least two thirds of</p>

			the cost of upgrading the energy performance of their homes. In addition, Greater Manchester Combined Authority has the opportunity to bid for part of the £500 million being made available to local authorities to help low-income households directly. Here
17/09/20	Letter	Defra / EAC	Letter from Secretary of State for Defra on environmental considerations here
21/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Energy - UIN 88855</p> <p>Sajid Javid (Bromsgrove): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to support the continued expansion of the Local Energy Programme.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The Local Energy Programme was launched as part of the Clean Growth Strategy in 2017, with £4.7 million funding. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has provided further funding in subsequent years, bringing the total funding for the Local Energy Programme to almost £20 million to date. This funding has been used to support Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), local authorities and communities in England to play a leading role in decarbonisation and clean growth. The programme has funded the development of an energy strategy for every LEP in England and established five Local Energy Hubs across England, which provide LEPs and local authorities with access to expertise to help develop and secure investment in low carbon projects. It also includes the £10 million Rural Community Energy Fund, delivered through the Hubs, which offers grants to community organisations in rural areas to support the initial stages of development for renewable energy projects. BEIS continues to work with the Local Energy Hubs, LEPs and local authorities, to enable a joined-up approach to decarbonisation and clean growth. here</p>
21/09/20	Speech	BEIS - SoS	BEIS: Speech by COP26 President Alok Sharma at the New York Climate Week Event here
22/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions - UIN 89865</p> <p>Paul Bristow (Peterborough): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what (a) financial and (b) other resources</p>

			<p>he is making available to help local authorities become carbon neutral.</p> <p><u>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate)</u>: Local authorities have a vital role in meeting our net zero commitment. Support is available from departments across Government for councils seeking to undertake local action on climate change. Recent examples include the Green Homes Grant (BEIS) and Active Travel Fund (DfT). On 8 July, the Chancellor announced a £2 billion Green Homes Grant scheme to upgrade homes across England. £500 million funding will be delivered through local authorities, to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households. This will help reduce fuel poverty and support the installation of low carbon heating.</p> <p>The £250 million emergency active travel fund announced on 9 May is designed to help local authorities create an environment that is safe for both walking and cycling in their regions. The money will help create pop-up bike lanes, wider pavements, safer junctions, and cycle and bus-only corridors. We want to support all communities across England who want to change the way they use their streets and new guidance has already been published to tell councils how they can give more road space to cyclists and pedestrians. To encourage drivers to make the switch to electric vehicles as part of a greener future, the Government has also announced an extra £10 million to incentivise local authorities to install up to 7,200 additional on-street electric vehicle chargepoints, doubling the current funding amount for the second time this year. It is for authorities to decide what measures are best aligned with local opportunities and needs. here</p>
23/09/20	Press release	PM office	<p>PM: 'Climate action cannot be another victim of coronavirus'</p> <p>PM Boris Johnson will address a UN Climate Action Roundtable hosted by the UN Secretary-General. here</p>
24/09/20	Written answers	Treasury	<p>Green gilt - UIN 91742</p> <p><u>Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley)</u>: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of the merits of introducing a green gilt to encourage private investment in regions outside London.</p>

			<p>John Glen (Salisbury): This Government is committed to building back better and investing in the green infrastructure that will help us to achieve our climate change objectives and level up the country. At the Plan for Jobs 2020, the Government announced an ambitious £3.05 billion package including the Green Homes Grant, designed to aid homeowners and landlords retrofit to upgrade the energy and cost efficiency of their homes. At Spring Budget 2020 the Government announced at least £800 million to support Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in two initial industrial clusters, the first by the mid-2020s and the second by 2030. CCS has the potential to reduce carbon emissions from power plants and factories. And on Tuesday (22 September), Dogger Bank Wind Farm announced the creation of almost 250 jobs in the North East on a project that will be capable of powering up to 4.5m homes when complete. More here</p>
24/09/20	Speech	Defra	<p>Speech by Environment Secretary, George Eustice, on biodiversity loss at home and abroad (24 September 2020): here</p>
25/09/20	Press release	DfT/BEIS	<p>Prepare for lift-off: Jet Zero Council to deliver carbon-free flight here</p>
25/09/20	Press release	PMO / Defra	<p>PM commits to protect 30% of UK land in boost for biodiversity here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Litter: Coronavirus Written question - 76631 Theresa Villiers (Chipping Barnet): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to support local authorities tackle increased littering during the covid-19 lockdown. [76631]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): We recognise that in the current circumstances local authorities may have more challenges than usual, including when collecting waste. The Government has responded with an unprecedented £4.3 billion support package for local authorities. This includes £3.7 billion of unringfenced grants which can be used by councils to meet local priorities including, should they see fit, cleaning up litter. Defra has also published guidance for local</p>

			<p>authorities on the prioritisation of waste collection services.</p> <p>Defra has also supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encourages people to treat our parks with respect this summer. Further information about the campaign is available at: https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/news/new-campaign-launched-face-littering-epidemic-parks</p> <p>Defra has also launched a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign this summer. This has been promoted both online and in locations near to urban parks, beaches and national parks to further highlight the impacts of littering, as well as unauthorised barbecues and campfires, and breaches of the countryside code.</p> <p>It remains an offence to drop litter, and councils have legal powers to take enforcement action against offenders. Anyone caught littering may be prosecuted in a magistrates' court, which can lead to a criminal record and a fine of up to £2,500 on conviction. Instead of prosecuting, councils may decide to issue a fixed penalty of between £65 and £150. here</p>
01/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Litter: Written question - 76664 Fiona Bruce (Congleton): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to reduce littering in public places. [76664]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government published its Litter Strategy for England in April 2017, setting out our aim to deliver a substantial reduction in litter and littering within a generation. The Litter Strategy focuses on three key themes: education and awareness; improving enforcement; and better cleaning and access to bins. A copy of the Litter Strategy can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/litter-strategy-for-england</p> <p>The "Keep it, Bin it" campaign, which is run by Defra with support from Keep Britain Tidy, encourages people to dispose of their waste responsibly and calls time on rubbish excuses for littering. In addition to</p>

			<p>this national campaign, and in response to recent reports of littering as people start to enjoy outdoor spaces once more, Defra has supported, and provided funding for, Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign, which encourages people to treat our parks with respect this summer. Further information about the campaign is available at: https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/news/new-campaign-launched-face-littering-epidemic-parks</p> <p>Defra has also launched a 'Respect the Outdoors' campaign this summer. This has been promoted both online and in locations near to urban parks, beaches and national parks to further highlight the impacts of littering, among other things. It remains an offence to drop litter, and councils have legal powers to take enforcement action against offenders. Following consultation, with effect from April 2018, we increased the maximum fixed penalty for littering from £80 to £150, and from April 2019, the minimum fixed penalty was also raised from £50 to £65. We have also given councils in England (outside London) new civil penalty powers to tackle littering from vehicles. Councils can issue the keeper of a vehicle from which litter is thrown with a civil penalty of between £65 and £150.</p> <p>The Government has, in its 2019 manifesto, committed to introduce a deposit return scheme (DRS) for drinks containers to secure an increase in recycling and reuse of materials, and to reduce the incidence of littering. We plan to undertake a second consultation on a DRS in early 2021. here</p>
02/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Written question: Clothing: Waste disposal Anthony Mangnall (Totnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to prevent the use of (a) incineration and (b) landfill for unsold clothing suitable for (i) reusing and (ii) recycling. [77812]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government is committed to working towards reducing textiles and clothing sent to landfill and incineration. For all materials, including textiles and clothing, prioritising waste prevention, reuse, and</p>

			<p>recycling ahead of landfill and incineration is embedded in the waste hierarchy and legislation is in place to support this.</p> <p>In our Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS, 2018), we highlighted our commitment to support reuse, recycling and the diversion of clothing from landfill and incineration. We are working with the Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) and industry on a new voluntary agreement and are seeking enabling powers in the Environment Bill to introduce product design and information requirements. The RWS also identified textiles as one of five priority waste streams to consult on for an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. VAT and taxation are matters for HM Treasury (HMT) and Defra will continue to work with other Government Departments, including HMT, on the development of policies. We are supporting the textiles reuse and recycling sector, which has experienced challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, through the WRAP -administered Resource Action Fund. The textiles fund makes a total of £1.5 million available, for small grants of £20 000 to £170 000. here</p>
02/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Written questions: Clothing: Recycling Anthony Mangnall (Totnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a reduction in the rate of VAT on clothing repair services on trends in the level of the reuse of clothing.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government is committed to working towards reducing textiles and clothing sent to landfill and incineration. For all materials, including textiles and clothing, prioritising waste prevention, reuse, and recycling ahead of landfill and incineration is embedded in the waste hierarchy and legislation is in place to support this. In our Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS, 2018), we highlighted our commitment to support reuse, recycling and the diversion of clothing from landfill and incineration. We are working with the Waste and Resources Action Plan (WRAP) and industry on a new voluntary agreement and are seeking enabling</p>

			<p>powers in the Environment Bill to introduce product design and information requirements. The RWS also identified textiles as one of five priority waste streams to consult on for an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme. VAT and taxation are matters for HM Treasury (HMT) and Defra will continue to work with other Government Departments, including HMT, on the development of policies.</p> <p>We are supporting the textiles reuse and recycling sector, which has experienced challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, through the WRAP - administered Resource Action Fund. The textiles fund makes a total of £1.5 million available, for small grants of £20 000 to £170 000. Here</p>
02/09/20	EDM	HoC	<p>Ban on sample sachets - Early Day Motion. Here</p>
08/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Waste Disposal: Private Sector - UIN 83968</p> <p>Daisy Cooper (St Albans): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing escrow accounts for payments for legal waste services licensed by the Environment Agency, where that payment can be held until the relevant paperwork has cleared.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Waste crime damages the environment, is a blight on local communities and the Government is committed to tackling this criminal activity.</p> <p>Whilst we have made no specific assessment of these proposals, the Resource and Waste Strategy published in 2018 sets out an ambitious package of reforms to modernise the way waste is regulated, by clamping down on illegal operators and improving performance across the sector. This included a commitment to develop proposals for the reform of the waste carrier, broker, and dealer regime. We are working with industry and the regulator and we intend to consult early next year. The reform aims to improve competence in waste management and transportation and deter illegitimate operators from entering the sector. This will help to ensure that waste is dealt with appropriately and</p>

			<p>reduce the incidence of fly-tipping and other waste crimes.</p> <p>The Environment Bill also provides a significant step forward in delivering a number of the commitments set out in the Strategy. The provisions in the Environment Bill will ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. Here</p>
08/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Disposal - UIN 82519 Charlotte Nichols (Warrington North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will increase funding to local authorities to help support the provision of food waste bins. [82519]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Following support at consultation, we will introduce a statutory duty for waste collection authorities to arrange for the separate collection of food waste from households, at least once a week. We are legislating for this through the Environment Bill. The Government has committed to covering the costs of any additional burdens that local authorities face as a result of new statutory duties requiring them to collect food waste separately for recycling. This is in keeping with the New Burdens Doctrine which requires new burdens on local authorities to be properly assessed and fully funded, so that there will be no increase in council tax as a result of the policy. Here</p>
10/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste - UIN 84368 Charlotte Nichols (Warrington North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make it his policy to end the export of plastic waste.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government is deeply concerned about the illegal trade in waste, including reports of illegal plastic waste exported from the UK. Recognising the difficulties experienced by some countries in managing imports of plastic waste the Government has committed to banning the export of plastic waste to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Environment Bill includes a power which will enable us to</p>

			deliver on this commitment and we will consult on the date by which this should be achieved. here
17/09/10	Question	HoL - Defra	<p>Packaging: Recycling – UIN HL7751 Baroness Bennett Of Manor Castle: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that all TetraPaks used in the UK are appropriately recycled.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: The Government is committed to increasing the quantity and quality of waste materials that are recycled. Following support in our 2019 consultation on 'Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England ', we will introduce legislation through the Environment Bill that will require a core set of recyclable materials (paper and card, plastic, glass, metal, food waste, garden waste) to be collected from households and businesses by all waste collectors in England.</p> <p>At consultation we also proposed additional materials that could be included into this core set of materials, including food and drink cartons. Food and drink cartons, such as Tetra Pak cartons, are widely collected by local authorities from households across England (60% of authorities offer kerbside collection). We are currently engaging with the waste sector to develop detailed proposals for collection and recycling of cartons by all local authorities and will consult on these early in 2021. Here</p>
24/09/20	Press release	WRAP	UK named 'exemplar' as Food Waste Reduction Roadmap membership passes 210 here
25/09/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Plastics - UIN 91193 Selaine Saxby (North Devon): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to reduce the (a) production and (b) sale of single use plastics.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): It is the Government's ambition to have zero avoidable waste going to landfill by 2050. The Resources and Waste Strategy sets out how we will eliminate avoidable plastic waste and move towards a more circular economy. We have already made significant progress, by introducing one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care</p>

			<p>products and significantly reducing the use of single-use carrier bags in the main supermarkets by 95% with our 5p charge. We have announced our plans to increase the minimum charge to 10p and to extend the charge to all retailers from April 2021. We will also introduce a ban on the supply of single-use plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds from October 2020. The Government also remains committed to introducing the Plastic Packaging Tax in April 2022, which will apply to plastic packaging manufactured in or imported into the UK containing less than 30% recycled plastic.</p> <p>Our landmark Environment Bill will enable us to go even further. The Bill will include powers to create extended producer responsibility schemes; introduce deposit return schemes; establish greater consistency in the recycling system; better control the export of plastic waste; and allow us to set new charges for other single-use plastic items. Further information can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/news/stronger-protections-for-the-environment-move-closer-as-landmark-bill-takes-shape. Here</p>
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Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/09/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Non-domestic Rates - UIN 78937 Nadia Whittome (Nottingham East): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what progress he has made on the Business Rates Review; and what the timetable is for the next steps of that review.</p> <p>Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire): On 21 July, HM Treasury published a Call for Evidence for the fundamental review of business rates. The Call for Evidence invites stakeholders to contribute their views on ideas for reform on all elements of the business rates system and on alternative taxes. As set out in the Call for Evidence, the fundamental review will have</p>

			<p>an interim report in autumn 2020, ahead of concluding in spring 2021. Here</p> <p>The Call for Evidence can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hm-treasury-fundamental-review-of-business-rates-call-for-evidence</p>
24/09/20	CSR	Locality	Locality – Summary of CSR submission here
24/09/20	Press release	MHCLG	£80 million boost to towns here
25/09/20	Written questions	MHCLG	<p>Leisure: Facilities - UIN 91186 Paula Barker (Liverpool, Wavertree): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will allocate additional funding to local authorities for investing in sport and leisure facilities.</p> <p>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate): MHCLG is providing local authorities with an unprecedented package of support, including £3.7 billion of un-ringfenced grants. This direct financial support the government has provided, is just part of a comprehensive package of support which includes cashflow measures as well as grants and business rates reliefs for businesses. The Secretary of State for Communities has also announced a co-payment scheme to cover irrecoverable losses in sales, fees and charges income in 20/21; such as revenue from cultural assets which have been depressed by the pandemic. Here</p>

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Local Plans: Climate Change - UIN 82016 Margaret Greenwood (Wirral West): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposals in the Planning for the future consultation, published 6 August 2020, on the response to climate change at a local level.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth): The Planning for the Future White Paper includes proposals to ensure that new homes meet our climate change and environmental objectives, including by ensuring homes delivered under our new planning system do not require future retrofitting. It also proposes to strengthen</p>

			<p>environmental outcomes: the National Planning Policy Framework will be revised to ensure policies support climate change mitigation and adaptation (including tackling flood risk), as well as creating places which are better-designed and more beautiful. When determining housing need, it is proposed that this will factor in land constraints, taking into account the practical limitations, including flood zones, that some areas might face in planning for the homes they need. The Government is encouraging feedback from individuals and organisations as part of its assessment of the proposed measures. Throughout the consultation, my department will be engaging with MPs, local politicians, planners, developers, the voluntary sector and communities. The Secretary of State will update the House in due course once the consultation is concluded and proposals are prepared</p> <p>Government has laid the revised National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England before Parliament on 14 July 2020. This sets out how homes and businesses across the country will be better protected and more resilient in future as part of our plans to tackle the risks of flooding and coastal erosion. We are currently reviewing our policy for building in areas at flood risk; this will seek to ensure that future development will be safe from floods. We will assess whether current protections in national planning policy are enough and consider options for further reform. In terms of local impacts, local authorities need to undertake sustainability appraisal when preparing development plans to understand how their development proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. Here</p>
09/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Green Belt- UIN 83741 Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Planning for the Future white paper, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposals on areas categorised Growth on undesignated green space. [83741]</p>

			<p>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth): Planning for the Future proposes significant changes to the focus and processes of planning – to secure better outcomes in terms of land for homes, beauty and environmental quality. One key proposal is that local plans place all land into one of three categories: areas for Growth, Renewal or Protection. The consultation proposal is clear that Green Belt and valued green space, which need not necessarily be a designated area, would be included in areas for Protection.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning policies and decisions should not only protect and enhance the natural environment but should secure net gains for biodiversity, including wildlife habitat, woods and ecological networks, and recognise the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. The reforms we are proposing are designed to support the continuing implementation of this policy by local authorities, in line with our 25 Year Environment Plan and provisions in the Environment Bill. We also propose to transform how communities engage with plan-making, using new digital tools to make it easier for many more people to understand, engage with and influence development policies and proposals. After carefully considering all the responses to Planning for the Future, the Government will publish its conclusions. here</p>
22/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Regional Planning and Development - UIN 91651</p> <p>Steve Reed (Croydon North): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when he plans to publish the proposed recovery and devolution White Paper will be published.</p> <p>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate): As we set out in June, the Government intends to bring forward the English Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper in the Autumn, detailing how the UK government will partner with places across the UK to build a sustainable economic recovery. Here</p>
21/09/20	Speech	MHCLG	<p>MHCLG: Speech by MHCLG Secretary, Robert Jenrick, at the Creating</p>

			Communities Conference 2020 on planning for the future here
25/09/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Planning for the future consultation - UIN 91733</p> <p>Mark Eastwood (Dewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposals in the Planning for the future consultation, published 6 August 2020, on access by communities to green space which is (a) undesignated and (b) part of a growth zone.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth): Planning for the Future proposes significant changes to the focus and processes of planning – to secure better outcomes including improving our precious countryside and environment alongside increasing the supply of land for new, beautiful homes and sustainable places. One key proposal is that local plans place all land into one of three categories: areas for Growth, Renewal or Protection. The consultation proposal is clear that Green Belt and valued green space, which need not necessarily be a designated area, would be included in areas for Protection.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning policies and decisions should not only protect and enhance the natural environment but should secure net gains for biodiversity, including wildlife habitat, woods and ecological networks, and recognise the benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. The reforms we are proposing are designed to support the continuing implementation of this policy by local authorities, in line with our 25 Year Environment Plan and provisions in the Environment Bill. We also propose to transform how communities engage with plan-making, using new digital tools to make it easier for many more people to understand, engage with and influence development policies and proposals. After carefully considering all the responses to Planning for the Future, the Government will publish its conclusions. here</p>

Transport – automated & electric vehicles

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/09/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Cycling and Walking: Infrastructure: Written question - 76622 <u>Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many local authorities produced local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIPs) by November 2019; and how many have produced LCWIPs since then.</p> <p><u>Chris Heaton-Harris (Daventry)</u>: A total of 40 local authorities have completed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), 9 of which were submitted by November 2019. £225 million has been allocated to local authorities from the Emergency Active Travel Fund in 2020-21 to implement measures such as pop-up bike lanes with protected space for cycling, widened pavements, safer junctions and cycle corridors. Authorities have been encouraged to align this funding with schemes prioritised in LCWIPs where possible. Further funding for 2020-21 is being provided through the Transforming Cities Fund and other highways and local growth funding sources.</p> <p>The Government intends to provide a second wave of support to enable more authorities to produce LCWIPs following the outcome of the Spending Review. here</p>
01/09/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Cycling and Walking: Infrastructure: Written question - 76623 <u>Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government is taking to encourage local authorities to produce local cycling and walking infrastructure plans. [76623]</p> <p><u>Chris Heaton-Harris (Daventry)</u>: A total of 40 local authorities have completed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), 9 of which were submitted by November 2019. £225 million has been allocated to local authorities from the</p>

			<p>Emergency Active Travel Fund in 2020-21 to implement measures such as pop-up bike lanes with protected space for cycling, widened pavements, safer junctions and cycle corridors. Authorities have been encouraged to align this funding with schemes prioritised in LCWIPs where possible. Further funding for 2020-21 is being provided through the Transforming Cities Fund and other highways and local growth funding sources.</p> <p>The Government intends to provide a second wave of support to enable more authorities to produce LCWIPs following the outcome of the Spending Review.</p> <p>here</p>
02/09/20	Oral question	HoL	<p>Oral question: Green Investment Fund - Answered on: Wednesday 2 September 2020</p> <p>Baroness Jones Of Moulsecomb: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total amount of public investment in carbon intensive sectors, including air travel, car manufacturing and road building; and what comparison they have made between that level of investment and the amounts available to the Green Investment Fund. Here</p>
04/09/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Roads construction - UIN 81627</p> <p>Kerry McCarthy (Bristol East): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of (a) the carbon impact of the Government's £27 billion road building programme and (b) the compatibility of that programme with the Government's target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): The second Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) provides £27.4 billion for the operation, maintenance, renewal and enhancement of the strategic road network. It is consistent with our ambitions to improve air quality and decarbonise transport, and the achievement of the overall net zero target.</p> <p>Analysis carried out in the preparation of RIS2 showed that the additional effect of new RIS2 schemes will be around 0.27 megatonne CO2 equivalent (MtCO2e) through to the end of the fifth carbon budget in 2032. When compared to the UK's fifth carbon budget of 1,725</p>

			MtCO2e, these schemes represent an extremely small component. Here
04/09/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Bus Service Operators Grant - UIN 82059 Thangam Debbonaire (Bristol West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Answer of 17 May 2019 to Question 252001 on Bus Service Operators Grant, by what date he plans to bring forward plans to reform the Bus Service Operators Grant.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): At the present time it is still our intention to proceed with plans to reform the Bus Service Operators Grant, however due to the ongoing pandemic these plans have temporarily been placed on hold and no specific date is envisaged at this time. The digitalisation of the grant process has also been placed on hold, however the department is committed to delivering this as part of the Governments Digital by Default Agenda and we aspire to resuming this before the end of the year. Here</p>
07/09/20	Press release	Transport select committee	Government aviation recovery plan cannot come quick enough for stricken sector here
15/09/20	Question	HoL - DfT	<p>Roads: Construction - HL7600 Baroness Bennett Of Manor Castle: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review their process of assessing (1) the carbon emissions, and (2) the economic benefits, resulting from new roadbuilding schemes; and what consideration they have given to assessing those impacts against the same criteria.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: Her Majesty's Government employs a relevant, robust and trusted analytical process designed to assess the likely impacts of both individual strategic road schemes and our road investment strategy as a whole. The impacts of such schemes on, for example, carbon, employment, housing, air quality and environmental issues are all assessed by the Department in line with its Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG). The Department keeps its appraisal and modelling methodologies which are set out in TAG, under constant review, commissioning research to improve the evidence base as well as improving methodologies. The recently published</p>

			TAG route map sets out our plans to update our guidance over the next six months and includes plans to update carbon values once these are finalised by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. here
16/09/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Bus Services: Coronavirus - UIN 86643 Gordon Henderson (Sittingbourne and Sheppey): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he has taken to ensure additional support for the coach industry during the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): On 8 August, the Government announced a funding package of over £40 million for Local Transport Authorities to procure additional, dedicated home to education transport services, including the provision of additional coach services. This funding will help children and young people get to school and college, whilst social distancing reduces the capacity of existing public transport. Coach operators could contact local authorities to discuss their home to school transportation plans.</p> <p>The Government has also announced several measures available to UK businesses, including the coach sector, to support them through this time, including: a further exemption to the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations until July 2021; Government recognition of refund credits under the Bonded Coach Holiday Scheme to allow customers to book a future holiday or request a refund when trading resumes; and access to the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme, and Time to Pay. Here</p>
17/09/20	Press release	Network Rail	Rail and road users to benefit from holistic approach to infrastructure planning here
17/09/20	Topical questions	DfT	<p>Topical Questions - 906160 Tom Hunt (Con) (Ipswich): If he (SoS) will make a statement on his departmental responsibilities.</p> <p>Grant Shapps (The Secretary of State for Transport): My Department continues to tackle the very many different challenges</p>

			that covid presents to all the forms of transport discussed here this morning. Continued questions here
18/09/20	Press release	Urban Transport Group	Empower urban transport authorities to build back better from COVID-19, urges report here
22/09/20	Written questions	DfT	<p>Acceleration Unit - UIN 91626 Lilian Greenwood (Nottingham South): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he plans to take to evaluate the effectiveness of the Transport Acceleration Unit.</p> <p>Andrew Stephenson (Pendle): The members of the Acceleration Unit will engage positively with key stakeholders and colleagues across the department, government, and industry on a range of projects and programmes at varying stages of their lifecycle to deliver the best possible outcome from accelerating their delivery. The Acceleration Unit aims to speed up the delivery of key projects and programmes which will be determined by the Secretary of State. A key element of the Unit's work will be to put in place a means to judge the effectiveness of its interventions. The Acceleration Unit Director Darren Shirley will assess the effectiveness of its activities in accordance with these criteria and report to the Secretary of State. here</p>
22/09/20	Written answers	HoL - DfT	<p>Road Traffic - UIN HL8141 Lord Pendra: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to reports that congestion is now higher than comparable 2019 levels, what plans they have to reduce congestion on roads.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: These are unprecedented times, bringing both challenges and opportunities. There is an opportunity to build on changes in behaviour seen during lockdown. The Prime Minister has been clear that as the country emerges from lockdown, people should walk or cycle where possible. Walking and cycling will reduce pressure on the public transport system and the road network. To help with this, the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) announced on 9 May included £225 million of funding in two tranches for local authorities. Alongside the funding, the Government published additional Network Management Duty guidance.</p>

			<p>This clearly set out what the Government expects local authorities to do in making changes to their road layouts to encourage cycling and walking in response to COVID-19 and to support a green restart and recovery.</p> <p>Active travel clearly does not work for everyone, or for every journey, but the more people that cycle and walk, the more road space is freed up for those who really need to drive. The Government is also investing in road and rail. On 14 May the Department laid out plans to transform the country's transport infrastructure to help the country 'build out' of COVID-19 and support the nation's economy through a £1.7bn Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund to improve roads, repair bridges and fill in millions of potholes. We are also increasing our investment in the operation, maintenance and renewal of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) to secure safer and more reliable journeys. Our second Road Investment Strategy, published in March, requires Highways England to meet the ambition that average delay on the SRN will be no worse than then in 2025, and sets tough targets for keeping the SRN free from traffic restrictions owing to roadworks and the clearance of incidents within one hour. here</p>
23/09/20	Written questions	HoL - DfT	<p>Bridges: Repairs and Maintenance Baroness Randerson: To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they have allocated for bridge repairs in England in (1) this financial year, and (2) the subsequent five years.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: On the Strategic Road Network (SRN) which is managed by Highways England, there is one structure which has a signed weight restriction, but this applies only to lanes 2 and 3. Lane 1 is unrestricted for vehicles complying with the Construction and Use Regulations. Highways England also has responsibility for most road carrying bridges crossing the SRN. Of these bridges, 84 have been identified as currently having a signed weight restriction. On the local highway network, it is a matter for each local highway authority to assess its bridge stock and the</p>

			Department does not hold this information. More here
24/09/20	Written answers	HoL - DfT	<p>Cycling and Walking: Finance - UIN HL8023</p> <p>Lord Greaves: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to allocate the remainder of the £2 billion investment to create "a new era for walking and cycling", announced on 9 May.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: On 28 July the Prime Minister launched ambitious plans to boost cycling and walking, which set a long-term vision for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. The plans include a £2 billion package of funding for active travel over the next 5 years. £225 million has been allocated to local authorities this financial year through the Emergency Active Travel Fund for immediate measures including new cycle lanes, wider pavements and safer junctions. £25 million has been allocated to cycle maintenance initiatives, including the Fix Your Bike Voucher Scheme and the Big Bike Revival. Decisions on the remainder will be for the Spending Review in the autumn. Here</p>

Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (eg TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates