

Special Inquiry Committee Proposals for 2019–20

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SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS FOR 2019–20

Letter from Baroness Tonge and Baroness Barker

Abortion in the UK

Description of Proposal

An inquiry into Abortion in the UK. The inquiry should have a particular focus on:

- How to best update the current outdated UK abortion legislation to improve abortion services for women and girls in the UK.
- How to improve service provisions for women and girls accessing abortion services in the UK with a particular focus on healthcare provider workforce; financing NHS/Private Providers; quality of care; expedite access; adolescent girls and marginalised/migrant populations, partnerships, and the use of digital technology.

Purpose of Inquiry.

- Decriminalisation of abortion in the UK.
- Increased funding to abortion service provisions in the UK.
- Improved abortion service provisions in the UK.

Relevant Member Experience

A cross party parliamentary inquiry into abortion will ensure input and scrutiny of an important service provision that affect 1 in 3 women in the UK – and currently outdated due to new technologies; health workforce shortages; and financial and bureaucratic constraints.

Cross cutting Departmental Boundaries

Abortion addresses areas of policy in the Department of Education, Department of Health and Social Care, the Northern Ireland Office and the Home Office.

One-year Time Frame

Yes

TONGE AND BARKER

Letter from Baroness Thomas of Winchester and Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

Barriers Faced by Working Age Disabled People

Description of Proposal

This is a vital study, which will directly assist with the Government's target to get 1 million disabled people into work in 10 years. We want to fully understand why independent living for disabled people is regressing because without it disabled people cannot take part in work, education or participate in family life. Recent research into this is telling us that this enforced passivity is costing the state both economically and socially.

Therefore a committee to scrutinise why this is happening and consider the various options to return the UK back to its excellent record on supporting disabled people to be active, participating citizens (what disabled people call independent living) is both timely and practical.

This committee would be very different from the ad hoc committee on The Equality Act and Disabled People which reported in March 2016 because it will only look at the infrastructure necessary to increase the prospects of working age disabled people to get to and from work.

This will include focusing on: Social Care, Housing, Transport and support to participate on a day-to-day basis, in education and in the work environment.

Purpose of Inquiry

The aim of the committee is to publish recommendations to develop an efficient and effective integrated support system, whereby working age disabled people, are enabled to work and participate in ways that they are currently prevented from doing.

This will be achieved by

- Identifying how resources from publicly funded support services are currently allocated and used. Their effectiveness at delivering independent living can then be measured.
- Examining whether our current legislative frameworks are best able to support disabled working age adults to get to work and participate effectively.
- Appraising alternative infrastructures where independent living support is organised and delivered differently, with better outcomes. (e.g. Australia, Sweden and Germany).

Relevant Member Experience

The House of Lords enjoys some of the most experienced and knowledgeable individuals in the areas of Disability, Housing, Social Care and Employment support structures. In addition, there are many active disabled peers who also have a direct personal knowledge of the barriers disabled people face day-to-day. It is hoped that they will put their names forward for this ad hoc committee should it be chosen.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Independent living for disabled people has always required a cross departmental response. This has been highly challenging to achieve because government departments have historically been structured in a silo way. One of the current Government aims is to develop a more integrated approach to the delivery of support services to disabled people, (hence the work of Universal Credit to bring six different welfare support benefits into one). It has also recently established an inter - Ministerial working group to address the barriers disabled people face in employment, transport and other aspects of daily living. This proposal will greatly assist with those aims.

One-year Time Frame

We believe this proposal can be carried out in one year or less.

THOMAS OF WINCHESTER AND CAMPBELL OF SURBITON

Letter from Baroness Flather

Barriers to Integration and Community Cohesion

Description of Proposal

We are fortunate to live in a democracy that which enshrines the principles of liberty, equality and mutual tolerance. However, there are widespread concerns about the lack of integration of isolated communities, as well as religious practices that run contrary to British values and sometimes out laws. Issues that require particular scrutiny include: English language proficiency; the segregation of pupils in faith schools; discriminatory and inconsistent rulings of Sharia councils; halal and kosher slaughter and forms of religious dress, such as wearing a niqab.

Purpose of Inquiry

My hope is that the inquiry will build on the findings of the 2016 Casey Review. It will act as a catalyst for much-needed legislative and policy change to build more cohesive communities and combat social isolation.

Relevant Member Experience

Many members of the House have legal and professional knowledge and experience of addressing issues relating to integration and community cohesion, and appropriate statutory responses.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The investigation, analysis and potential findings relate to several departments. Namely, the Home Office, DEFRA, the Department for Education, Ministry of Justice and the Government's Equalities Office.

One Year Time Frame

Yes.

FLATHER

Letter from Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

Britain's Demographic Challenge

Description of Proposal

To consider the implications – economic, environmental and societal – of the ONS projected increase in the population of UK of some 7 million by 2040 – equivalent to two and a half cities the size of Manchester – and the further projected increases thereafter.

Purpose of Inquiry

The Government have recently produced four strategic policy papers – on housing – ‘Fixing our Broken Housing Market’; on the environment – ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment’; on social cohesion – ‘Integrated Communities Strategy’ and on civil society – ‘Civil Society Strategy: Building a Future that works for everyone’ - none of which mention demographic change (or do so only tangentially). The inquiry would seek to draw the Government's attention to the critical role population (numbers not race, colour or creed) plays in long term planning.

Relevant Member Experience

The range of experience amongst Members of the House together with the House's ability to take a longer view, make it uniquely well qualified to carry out this inquiry.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Self evidently the inquiry involves a great many government departments.

One-year Time Frame

The inquiry would require a full year but an appropriately phrased Call for Evidence and focussed evidence sessions would enable the task to be completed.

Additional Comments

I have no doubt that the initial reaction of the Liaison Committee will be to avoid this topic – issues of eugenics and race will immediately spring to mind. Because demographic issues have such a long time fuse (20+ years) they do not command much political interest in a system attuned to a five year cycle. But, recent opinion research suggests that over 60% of the country think our population is too high. Demography is about long term planning and the House of Lords is uniquely placed to initiate a debate on this issue which is of particularly critical importance to the next generation.

Lord Cooper of Windrush, Lord Faulks, Baroness Greengross, Lord King of Bridgwater, Lord Lamont of Lerwick, Lord Luce, Lord Mawson OBE and Baroness Neville-Rolfe support this proposal.

HODGSON OF ASTLEY ABBOTTS

Letter from Baroness Randerson*Business Confidence in Financial Services**Description of Proposal*

Business growth, particularly of SMEs, is central to our economy.

In the wake of the financial crisis, many have lost trust in not only the banks but also the regulators.

This limits the entrepreneurialism and innovation that UK prides itself on.

This committee will address these issues in a focused way and identify practical steps so that business confidence in the financial services industry can be justified and restored.

Why?

In the wake of the conduct scandals in financial services and associated industries, business trust in financial institutions is at a record low.

This is having a direct impact on confidence, growth and productivity, with businesses considering it safer to not borrow in order to invest or grow. Post Brexit there will be an urgent need to boost business investment but our economy will be in a more fragile state.

There is associated widespread concern that both statutory and voluntary regulators are not able/willing to provide restitution and remedies for businesses.

Relevant Member Experience

The House has a considerable number of members with experience of banking, business and also there are several who have been part of regulating bodies in the past.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

These are cross-cutting issues that would complement the work of other departments and committees, including Treasury Select, BEIS, Justice and Home Affairs.

Areas that could form foci for the committee to take evidence and produce recommendations on include:

- **Effective Regulation:** do statutory or voluntary regulatory schemes have the requisite teeth and appetite to enforce and to deter poor conduct?
- **Access to justice:** giving SMEs a voice, taking the high price tag off justice, providing an independent resolution method that has real expertise in the sector.
- **Protection of whistleblowers:** Whistleblowers often have their lives destroyed in the UK – how can calling out bad practice become something that is not frowned upon?
- **Conflict of Interest:** Are there effective measures in place to prevent conflict of interest between banks, solicitors, accountants, surveyors, LPA receivers and insolvency practitioners? This is a very live problem area.

While some of these areas are touched on by current activity in Parliament, this committee would draw together the diverse strands and make clear the bigger picture of industry-wide issues that restrict the successful co-operation of financial services and business; which in turn discourage business growth.

One-year Time Frame

The committee's output—achievable in 12 months—would both develop wider understanding and identify best practice opportunities.

Additional Comments

There have been several short debates in the Commons which have touched on these issues but I am not aware of any previous in depth committee inquiry.

RANDERSON

Letter from Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve

Democracy and Digital Technologies

Description of Proposal

At present we are in the absurd situation of regulating expenditure and activity by political parties tightly (during campaigns), but not regulating the expenditure or activity of others who seek to influence electoral outcomes. There is now ample evidence of political campaigning by non party individuals and organisations from within and beyond the UK, which escapes regulation. This is perilous for the

quality of media coverage of electoral and other issues, for the integrity of elections and ultimately for democracy.

These issues will be very hard to resolve. Nobody I have spoken to can offer a definition of what constitutes a ‘political advertisement’ that is coherent or useable. Few understand the business models of the tech companies, or how these enable distortion of media coverage and leach political power (and, of course, tax revenue) from other institutions, thereby weakening the possibility of democracy. The tech companies are now keen to limit some of the *private harms* inflicted using digital technologies—e.g. cybercrime, cyber bullying,—but markedly less keen to reduce *public harms*, whether to serious journalism, to wider cultures or to democratic politics, by use of these technologies.

Purpose of Inquiry

The inquiry should aim to identify the more significant ways in which digital technologies are used to undermine media standards, other cultural assets and democratic process.

It should address the (mis)use of arguments from free speech to cloak electoral activity by unidentified parties; it should consider the impact and acceptability of micro targeting electors.

It should consider whether digital technologies have brought UK political campaigning into line with US practice since the *Citizens United* Supreme Court Decision and, in effect, accord digital companies the same rights as citizens.

It should assess the costs and benefits of various proposals to address and or repair the damage being done to media standards and democracy. These might include revised electoral laws; consideration whether online providers should continue to be treated in law as *platforms* rather than as *publishers*, and whether change is feasible; the acceptability of anonymous ‘participation’ in political debate; the cases where transparency may provide a remedy and those where it will not, or is not achievable; and related topics.

Relevant Member Experience

The Commons may be considering some of these topics, and coordination will be needed. If a HoL committee is established it will need to include members who could look closely at the technologies and others who are able to consider how the business models of the tech companies shape matters.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Yes. Electoral matters; DCMS matters; tax and revenue matters; BEIS matters.

One Year Time Frame

I think it could be done within a year, on the understanding that the previous committee covered the polling issues, which in my view do not need further work.

O’NEILL OF BENGARVE

Letter from Lord Lipsey

Do Digital Media Threaten our Democracy?

Description of Proposal

The Committee on Opinion Polls which I chaired was not able to consider within its timetable the bit of its remit which referred to digital media; and it said so in its report.

Aspects needing investigation include:

- the extent to which state entities are using digital media to try to influence the politics of other states
- legal and regulatory structures in relation to digital and social media
- the extent to which media literacy can address problems with digital media
- how political advertising can be identified and the sources of funding traced
- the influence of digital, social media and data analytics companies

Purpose of Inquiry

My opinion polling committee left a lacuna on digital media and politics. Since we were sitting this has hugely grown in salience with the Cambridge Analytica scandal and allegations of Russian interference in American elections, with plausible fears arising that digital media can be a threat to the proper functioning of our democracy.

Relevant Member Experience

Ex Commons members of the House have deep knowledge of the electoral process and ways in which it can be affected, without being involved personally. Some members, e.g. Onora O'Neill, have devoted great thought and attention to the matters involved.

LIPSEY

Letter from Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

Election Regulation in the UK

Description of Proposal

I would like to propose a Special Inquiry Committee into the future regulation of elections in the UK. In a new era of modern technology, social media there remains the need to maintain fair and balanced reporting when fewer media outlets are regulated, particularly in the light of the decline of reach and influence of the traditional press.

Purpose of Inquiry

New technology has broken down many of the traditional borders with allegations of systematic media interference in elections around the world by foreign governments. The regulations and institutions such as the Electoral Commission and OFCOM that oversee the UK's elections and media must have the necessary

powers and authority to defend the UK's political process from attempts to undermine it.

STEVENSON OF BALMACARA

Letter from Lord Balfe

Fairness Between Members of the House

Description of Proposal

It is manifestly unjust that Members from outside London cannot claim any overnight allowance against actually incurred costs of staying in accommodation in London. The great majority of Members either have their main residence in London or own a property in London often dating back to their time as MPs. I believe that this problem needs addressing and that a special committee should be established to look at devising an accountable system of reimbursement for the costs Peers who cannot afford to purchase property in London incur in the course of doing their duty. There are several schemes in use in the public sector which are transparent and accountable, so it should not be difficult to adapt one to the requirements outlined above.

Purpose of Inquiry

Fairness between Members and an end to the discrimination suffered by those who do not have a residence in London.

Relevant Member Experience

By treating people equally it allows all to play a full role in the life of the House.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Since no one in the House seems to accept that this is a question worthy of being addressed it should concentrate the minds of the various bodies responsible for addressing Members needs.

One Year Time Frame

Yes easily.

Additional Comments

If there is a will there is a way.

BALFE

Letter from Lord Hylton

Family Policy in England

Description of proposal

Take evidence from Government Departments in England, from Local Government Associations and Voluntary Organisations, also from Employers, Trades Unions etc, about how they try to promote positive family life and relations. Ask are they frustrated by the fragmentation of responsibilities and what proposals they have for preventing this. How important are social inequalities and privileges? Does the distribution of wealth matter? Is the all-out pursuit of economic growth unhelpful to families and harmful to the environment? What can be done by governmental

and legislative reform and better cooperation between the public and private sectors? What are witnesses' priorities for improving support for families and the quality of their lives?

Reflect on the evidence and make recommendations for better family policies by The Statutory, Private and Voluntary Sectors (the latter to include churches and faith groups). Recommendations should distinguish between what can be done:

- (a) in short-term,
- (b) over a decade, and
- (c) over a generation, say 25–30 years.

Purpose of inquiry

End lip-service by Governments to the importance of family life and relationships
Prevent undermining of the family by uncoordinated policies and their unintended consequences.

Positively promote the family as the key building block in local communities, the wider society, and for the Common Good.

Emphasize the family as essential to stability, citizenship and social harmony, minimize the problems caused by family breakdown, one-parent families etc.

Relevant member experience

The House has a former head of the Courts Family Division (Baroness Butler-Sloss); also other judges and magistrates. Lord Northbourne (now retired) used to speak on parenting, while others have experience of social services and voluntary groups. Lord Farmer has reported on prisons and family life. Others know the Civil Service and major corporations.

Cross-cutting departmental boundaries

Aim to improve coherence between Government Departments responsible for families, e.g.

- Education—responsibility for children;
- Treasury—tax and allowances;
- Home Office—migration and refugees;
- Justice—Prisons and young offenders, probation, non-custodial sentences, Divorce;
- Housing Communities and local government - housing, homelessness, faith groups;
- Health and Social Care—NHS, healthy living, prevention of disease and public health, IVF, Surrogate mothers, embryo freezing;
- Local Authorities—care of children and elderly, social services, adoption, fostering etc;
- Work and Pensions—employment, zero-hours contracts, universal credit;

- Minister for Women—Surrogate mothers , embryo freezing;
- Voluntary Organizations—specialising in care of families, adoption, fostering, advice, case work etc.

One-year time frame

I think that evidence could be taken from the various Government Departments within 12 months. The views of the Corporate and Voluntary sectors could come in writing, but might take longer to assess.

Additional comments

Member of All Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs.

HYLTON

Letter from Lord Krebs and Baroness Boycott

Food, Poverty, Health and the Environment

Description of Proposal

This proposal is to establish an ad hoc select committee that will conduct an inquiry into a theme that lies at the intersection of three key policy areas for government: inequality in society, public health, and sustainability of the food system. The theme is especially suited to a House of Lords inquiry, not only because it is a pressing issue for the country, with both short and long term implications, but also because it has policy relevance for a wide range of government departments. The inquiry is particularly timely because Brexit will provide an opportunity for the UK to reshape its food system after leaving the CAP and at the same time there could be an impact on the price, quality, and availability of imported food.

The problem of inequality in the UK has been starkly documented in a recent report by UN special rapporteur Philip Alston, who concludes that 14 million people live in poverty and 1.4 million are destitute.

The equality trust reports that the “UK has a very high level of income inequality compared with other developed countries” with the top 10% earning an original income about 24 times that of the bottom 10%. There are also large differences in wealth (the richest 10% own 45%, the poorest 10% 8.7%) and in geographical distribution (households in the south east being more than twice as wealthy as those in the north east).

Inequality manifests itself in health outcomes. The Kings Fund reports that life expectancy among the top 10% is almost a decade longer than in the bottom 10% of men, and the healthy life expectancy gap is 19 years. These gaps are widening.

Diet is one of a number of key contributors to these difference in life expectancy and health. Poor diet is estimated to contribute between a quarter and a third of the risk of most chronic diseases including cancers, stroke, type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease. One manifestation of poor diet is obesity. The UK prevalence is one of the highest in the developed world, with one in five children obese by the age of 11. The prevalence of obesity in the most deprived UK communities is double that of the least deprived. Chronic disease arising from poor diets not only affects an individual’s life chances, but also imposed public costs: it is estimated that within the next two decades one third of the NHS budget will be used to treat type 2 diabetes, a largely avoidable condition.

The UK food system is currently unsustainable, as highlighted by the Committee on Climate Change. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the legally binding targets, diets will have to shift towards a greater proportion of plant-based foods. This will simultaneously bring health and sustainability benefits.

Purpose of Inquiry

The inquiry will seek to document up to date facts about diet and health of the poorest in society and the environmental impacts of the food they eat. It will focus on possible policy solutions ranging from information and education to taxation and restriction. The inquiry will seek to learn lessons from other countries and to make recommendations for Government as well as other actors.

Relevant Member Experience

The Lords is particularly well placed to conduct the inquiry because it includes a great deal of experience from the perspectives of food producers, consumers, regulators, public health, sustainability and poverty.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The theme crosses the policy remits of at least six Government departments: Health (public health and nutrition policies), DEFRA (food production, labelling and sustainability), HCLG (planning laws that affect food availability), BEIS (climate policy, trade), DFE (school meals, education), FSA (food standards and regulation). For this reason, the Government does not have a policy framework for tackling the issues in this inquiry. While individual solutions to parts of the jigsaw have been debated, no one has taken a broader view to analyse synergies, unintended consequences, and trade-offs.

One-year Time Frame

The theme is complex and multifaceted, but with sufficient focus on key issues it will be possible to complete it within 20 evidence sessions, including sessions with Ministers from the relevant departments.

Lord Cameron of Dillington, Baroness Jenkin of Kennington and Lord Rooker support this proposal.

KREBS AND BOYCOTT

Letter from Baroness Fookes

Future of Ornamental Horticulture

Description of Proposal

Ornamental Horticulture is of major economic importance - see a Survey published by Oxford Economics and a Report by the All Party Parliamentary Gardening and Horticulture Group, both published in the autumn of 2018.

It is also being increasingly realised that it has a major impact on health and well-being. It has a profound contribution to make to the environment through its ability to reduce CO₂, flooding and the humanising of urban environments.

It also provides enormous opportunities for employment from the relatively unskilled through to degree and post degree qualifications and research especially in the field of plant health and pests and diseases.

Purpose of Inquiry

There are various disadvantages from which it suffers and the Brexit period seems a particularly opportune period to address them:

- There is a skills shortage at all levels not helped by the tendency of educationalists to write off horticulture as a worthwhile career. There are also uncertainties about the availability of foreign workers.
- There is a need to increase research into pests and diseases - we have already suffered from several devastating ones and more on the horizon from abroad. Practical efforts are needed by import substitution and vigilance at ports of entry.

Another form of research should be the replacement of scarce human labour by machines where this is possible.

Horticulture also suffers from having been the poor relation in relation to agriculture at Defra and is further disadvantaged by its role being spread over other departments such as Education and Health and Social Care.

Relevant Member Experience

There are a number of members who have skill and expertise in various aspects of horticulture or have other experience relevant to the subject - for example town planning and architecture and some aspects of agriculture. The soil is common to both horticulture and agriculture.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The enquiry would be seeking first to establish horticulture as a subject of great importance which should be recognised as such by all Government Departments involved.

Second it should seek to get a unified approach from these departments instead of the piecemeal approach we have currently.

It should then address specific problems some of which have been listed above: skills shortages, research, import substitution etc.

FOOKES

Letter from Baroness Cox

Gender Discrimination and 'Honour' Based Abuse

Description of Proposal

An inquiry into the problems experienced by many women and girls suffering from religiously-based gender discrimination. We believe this is a crucial time for such an inquiry as part of a wider commitment to the promotion of gender equality and eradication of discrimination. Although this proposal has been stimulated by concerns brought to our attention by Muslim women, the inquiry would encompass such discrimination wherever it is a cause for concern. Our inquiry would have strong support from women's groups including the Muslim Women's Advisory Council (MWAC), Karma Nirvana, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) and British Arabs Supporting Universal Women's Rights (BASIRA). We would take evidence from women's groups, academics, and, where appropriate, from victims and survivors of abuse. We would also consider

the recommendations of the independent review into the application of Sharia Law in England and Wales (February 2018).

Purpose of Inquiry

Our hope is that the inquiry will act as a catalyst for much needed legislative and policy change to alleviate the problems of religiously-based gender discrimination.

Relevant Member Experience

Many members of the House have great legal and professional knowledge and experience of addressing issues relating to gender discrimination, arbitration, support for victims of abuse, and appropriate statutory responses.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The investigation, analysis and findings relate to several departments, including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and the government's Equalities Office.

One Year Time Frame

Yes

Any Additional Comments

The inquiry would help to address the serious issue of the suffering of many women and girls in our country today who need an urgent response to alleviate their problems.

Lord Dholakia and Lord Tebbit support this proposal.

COX

Letter from Lord Freyberg

Harnessing the Value of NHS Data

Description of Proposal

A Special Inquiry Committee to explore the potential to harness the social, economic and commercial value of NHS data whilst addressing the technical, legal, ethical and cultural barriers to delivering potential benefits to the nation's health.

The right data, used in the right way, can save lives and cost in the NHS. It can also accelerate science and the development of new treatments and technologies – thereby stimulating enterprise. However, whilst there is merit to experimentation at the local level, there is a risk that:

- Data sharing agreements entered into by individual Trusts provide access to data in keeping with priorities that are set by industry (i.e. in accordance with a commercial imperative) rather than by clinicians and/or the wider public sector;
- Data sharing agreements do not conform to nationally agreed standards – impacting the value created in different places and, potentially, public trust;
- Individual Trusts benefit from differential control over data of interest to researchers, entrepreneurs and innovators – impacting the extent to

which they are able to harness the financial value of data assets relative to others;

- Trusts that are ‘data/expertise poor’ will have to compensate other ‘data/expertise rich’ Trusts in future for the Intellectual Property they (help) develop – potentially, exacerbating health inequalities (i.e. the social value that healthcare data should, ideally, create for the NHS as a whole – and, with that, everyone living in the UK); and
- Some Trusts lack the in-house expertise that is needed to enter into commercially savvy deals relative to the corporate entities approaching them.

The NHS could be an ideal global partner for industry and Government but, so far, lacks the processes, capabilities and trusted governance to allow such engagement.

This Committee would take evidence on:

- How to engage clinicians, the wider public sector as well as the general public to establish the priorities for healthcare data sharing initiatives with third parties and, thereby, maximise the broader social value they have the potential to generate;
- The optimum measures to ensure ‘data quality by design’ and/or fund data clean-up and curation to hasten delivery of those priorities;
- The considerations any framework for healthcare information sharing agreements involving NHS bodies should heed to ensure they conform to nationally agreed and forward-thinking standards;
- The scope to place healthcare data assets controlled by NHS bodies on the national balance sheet; and
- Potential mechanisms for recycling or redistributing revenues from third party access to/usage of NHS data to ensure everyone living in the UK benefits from data-driven healthcare advancements in an equitable manner.

Purpose of Inquiry

To serve as a forum for cross-party discussion and the generation of expert input to the Government’s ongoing work.

Relevant Member Experience

The scope of this Committee would be complex; requiring detailed knowledge of the NHS, medical research, business, investment, finance, international trade, IP development, science, law, IT and ethics. Members of the House would be well placed to address these issues, as many members maintain careers and enterprises or businesses in related fields and are active as practicing clinicians, members of medical research bodies, business leaders, academic research scientists, IT entrepreneurs and law professionals. They bring this knowledge and practical experience to their role of examining matters of public interest and are uniquely placed to work together cross party, in the national interest.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

This agenda cuts across:

- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England, Public Health England and NHS Trusts as the controllers of much of routine health data, clinical audits and registries;
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Office for Life Sciences as an investor in new forms of health data research such as HDR-UK, Genomics England and the UK Biobank and the role of Innovate UK in supporting health data innovation via various catapults and other initiatives;
- The Department for Media, Culture and Sport given its lead role in developing the National Data Strategy and oversight of the Data Protection Act (2018);
- The Department for International Trade given its sponsorship of Healthcare UK and related NHS Export Catalyst as well as its lead role in future trade negotiations post-Brexit; and
- The Treasury and Cabinet Office given their Intangible Assets and Balance Sheet Review work.

One Year Time Frame

Yes – the Government has published an initial [code of conduct](#)¹ for data-driven health and care technology, is consulting upon 10 high-level [principles](#)² for the management of data throughout the health and care system, and has recently invited patients, the public and partners to comment on 5 [principles](#)³ that are intended to guide the development of a national policy framework where the commercialisation of NHS data is concerned. It will also publish a National Data Strategy for consultation in 2019. A SIC of this nature would, then, be timely and of real relevance over the months to come and serve as a forum for cross-party discussion and the generation of expert input to the Government's ongoing work.

Additional Comments

This proposal for a Special Inquiry Committee builds upon:

- A series of cross-party meetings between Peers during Summer 2018;
- A House of Lords Debate led by Lord Freyberg and held 6 September 2018 about the value of healthcare data in the UK; and
- A cross-party roundtable for parliamentarians and key officials Chaired by Lord Mitchell 10 December 2018.

FREYBERG

1 Department of Health and Social Care; Initial Code of Conduct for data driven health and care technology: <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-conduct-for-data-driven-health-and-care-technology/initial-code-of-conduct-for-data-driven-health-and-care-technology>

2 NHS Data Principles <https://web.archive.org/web/20181130230117/http://www.nhs-digital.citizenspace.com/clinical-data-architecture/data-principles/>

3 Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, *Policy Paper on Life Sciences Deal 2 2018*: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-sciences-sector-deal/life-sciences-sector-deal-2-2018>

Letter from Lord Cromwell

Restoring trust between SMEs and financial institutions

Description of Proposal

The problem:

SMEs – so often vaunted as the engine of growth for the UK economy - have experienced a series of damaging episodes of misconduct involving businesses in financial distress and insolvent businesses.

For example, widespread miss-selling of interest rate hedging products (IRHPs), the scandals of RBS's GRG unit and the HBOS Reading fraud have all exposed the systematic mistreatment of SMEs. A key result is that businesses no longer trust financial institutions and are extremely wary of taking on loans. The British Business Bank has established that the proportion of SMEs applying for new loans fell from 2.9% in 2012 to 1.7% in H1 2017.⁴

Protection?

Few people realise—including many SME owners—just how very limited are the protections available to businesses to prevent lender misconduct. This is because—unlike consumer finance—business lending is largely unregulated, meaning that enforcement actions available to regulators when banks mistreat their business customers are all-but non-existent.

As an example of the consequences, in July 2018, the FCA announced that they could take no disciplinary actions against RBS or individuals for the 'widespread mistreatment' of businesses within their GRG unit - as they operated outside the FCA's perimeter.

Businesses also have limited options for redress. Micro-businesses can go to the Financial Ombudsman Service, but serious concerns have been repeatedly raised over their ability to effectively handle complex business banking cases. For example, Channel 4's *Dispatches*. Beyond the FOS, the civil courts are the only option for redress and restitution, but they are inaccessible to all but the very largest and wealthiest SMEs – and even they are no match for the financial firepower available to lenders fighting cases.

Is UK out-of-step?

Other nations recognise the need for change.

In 2015, the Republic of Ireland regulated business lending - and new SME lending increased by more than 51% from the end of 2014 to the start of 2018.⁵ Australia has established a Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry, which has led to refunds for consumers, the abandonment of certain products or practices, new and more intense regulatory focus on particular activities and enforcement proceedings against financial institutions found guilty of misconduct.⁶

4 British Business Bank, *Small Business Finance Markets 2017/18* (20 February 2018), p 7: <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Small-Business-Finance-Markets-2018-Report-web.pdf>

5 Central Bank of Ireland, *SME Market Report* (August 2018); <https://www.centralbank.ie/docs/default-source/publications/sme-market-reports/sme-market-report-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

6 Royal Commission, *Executive Summary of the Interim Report* (September 2018): <https://financialservices.royalcommission.gov.au/Documents/interim-report/interim-report-exec-summary.pdf>

Parliamentary interest

There is vigorous interest amongst parliamentarians to raise understanding and awareness of these issues and to resolve them so that SME confidence in the financial industry can be restored. Given uncertain economic future this has never been more timely and important.

SME's account for 99.9% of all private sector businesses and 60% of all private sector employment.⁷ As such, they are of critical importance for the strength and resilience of the UK economy. If they are not treated correctly - particularly when they are in distress so they can be turned around and contribute to the economy again – the economy, employment and the UK's reputation as a place to start a business will all suffer.

Purpose of Inquiry

A special inquiry would provide evidence and answers to questions in the following 5 topic areas:

- **Creditor misconduct and the insolvency system:** Is the UK's current corporate insolvency framework robust enough to deter credit misconduct? Are there effective measures in place to prevent conflict of interest between banks, solicitors, accountants, surveyors, LPA receivers and insolvency practitioners?
- **Regulation of business lending:** do voluntary codes of conduct have the requisite teeth and enforcement powers required to prevent poor conduct? Does the UK need to bring commercial lending into the regulatory perimeter? How effective is the Senior Managers and Certification Regime?
- **Access to justice:** is the Financial Ombudsman Service (current or expanded) capable of adjudicating complex business banking disputes? Is a Financial Services Tribunal required to provide access to justice for larger SME complaints?
- **Whistleblowers:** whistleblowers often have their lives destroyed by blowing the whistle on damaging practices in the financial services industry. How can we protect whistleblowers and encourage them to call out bad behaviour? Should they be rewarded for blowing the whistle as they are in the US?
- **Investigation of financial fraud:** the HBOS Reading fraud cost Thames Valley Police £7m to investigate. Does the UK currently have adequate resources to conduct robust investigations of business banking and other financial frauds, which costs the economy approximately £190bn each year?

Relevant Member Experience

Many Members were/are themselves business owners. Many others have built their careers in the financial services industry.

The active and respected APPG on Fair Business Banking is evidence that there is keen, and cross-party, interest in both Houses in restoring trust in the industry.

⁷ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, *Business Population Estimates for the UK and Regions 2017* (30 November 2017), p 1: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663235/bpe_2017_statistical_release.pdf SMEs are defined as businesses with 0–249 employees.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The treatment of businesses in distress and insolvency by financial institutions is a focus area that crosses departmental boundaries. It encompasses HM Treasury, BEIS, the Insolvency Service but also the Ministry of Justice and non-ministerial departments such as the National Crime Agency and the Serious Fraud Office. These issues cannot be resolved by an individual inquiry held by a government department.

The committee would also complement the work of the Treasury Select committee, who have recently completed an 'SME Finance Inquiry' and are currently investigating 'Economic Crime'. The BEIS Select committee is also currently undertaking an inquiry into 'Small Businesses and Productivity'.

One Year Time Frame

As the committee's inquiry would focus on the 5 areas listed above, it is capable of being completed in one year or less. The committee could hold 4 x 1-hour evidence sessions for each focus area.

CROMWELL

Letter from Lord Sheikh

Islamophobia

Description of Proposal

I think that there are problems in the country relating to Islamophobia and I feel that this subject needs to be looked into further. For instance:

- We need to see what is the extent of the problem.
- We need to ascertain whether there is Islamophobia in the political parties, the establishment the media and amongst employers. These are just a few examples.
- To what extent is there a role for politicians, local authorities, police, government, the media and the community to play in order to remedy the situation?
- To what degree is the situation aggravated by the activities of right-wing extremist groups and what can be done to limit their influence?
- Is the Muslim community doing enough to deal with the problems and what else can they be doing?
- Is the government fully involved with the community?
- What is the extent of hate crimes and is enough being done to deal with the issues? How are hate crimes affecting the community?
- Is there any connection between Islamophobia and radicalisation?

Purpose of Inquiry

We need to establish the extent of the problem and put forward possible solutions.

Relevant Member Experience

I feel the members do have the knowledge and experience to look into the issues in depth and obtain evidence from witnesses.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Islamophobia affects everybody, and the various departments would be concerned about this.

One-year Time Frame

Yes.

SHEIKH

Letter from Lord Campbell-Savours*National Identity Cards**Description of Proposal*

Can I suggest a liaison committee enquiry into the introduction/use of national identity cards?

Purpose of Inquiry

The areas I would like to see covered would include

1. Their use as entitlement cards in accessing public services
2. The use of the cards in combatting fraud
3. The use of the cards in providing identity on request
4. The benefit of the cards post Brexit
5. The experience of other European States in their use
6. The use of technology biometrics on the card
7. The use of the card and benefits to the taxpayer arising out of their use

And more!

Lord Blunkett, Lord Clark of Windermere, Baroness Corston, Lord Davies of Stamford, Baroness Golding, Lord Grocott, Lord Hamilton of Epsom, Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope, Baroness McIntosh of Pickering, Baroness Pitkeathley and Lord Rooker support this proposal.

CAMPBELL-SAVOURS

Letter from Viscount Chandos

Cryptocurrencies and Distributed Ledger Technology

Description of Proposal

“While the internet promised to enable the efficient exchange of information, the crypto/blockchain space is promising to enable the efficient exchange of value” (Cambridge Associates, December 2018).

Public awareness and regulatory scrutiny of cryptocurrencies have largely focused on the volatile, speculative trading of cryptocurrencies and their use by some for money-laundering and other criminal activities. The question of how cryptocurrencies can be brought on to a level regulatory playing field would be a key part of the committee’s work. The Bank of England’s Financial Policy Committee and, internationally, the Financial Stability Board have both been examining the risks posed by cryptocurrencies to domestic and global financial systems.

But the Governor of the Bank of England himself, in his speech in March 2018 to the inaugural Scottish Economics Conference, having turned a sceptical eye to cryptocurrencies’ ability to meet any or all of Adam Smith’s three definitions of money’s role, said:

“Whatever the merits of crypto-assets as money, authorities should be careful not to stifle innovations which could in the future improve financial stability, support more innovative, efficient and reliable payments services, as well as have wider applications.”

Those wider applications, through the distributed ledgers such as blockchain and Ethereum which have been fuelled by related cryptocurrencies, cover areas such as improvement of the supply chain, merchandise authentication, “smart” legal contracts and control of personal data.

The committee would take evidence from, *inter alios*, entrepreneurs in what Mark Carney described as the crypto-asset ecosystem, regulators and government departments, users and potential users of cryptocurrencies and/or distributed ledgers and academics in all relevant fields. It would also examine other key issues, such as the implications for energy consumption and privacy.

Purpose of Inquiry

The committee would seek to identify the potential for cryptocurrencies to develop into effective forms of money and the prospective benefits and risks of that; the optimal approach to regulation in order to balance the protection of the financial system (and other aspects of the market economy) with the promotion of increased efficiency and productivity, not just in the financial services sector, but across the board; and the position of the UK Fintech and technology industry in this space. It would in all these cases aim to make recommendations to government as to the action that it could take to promote and protect the interests of consumers, improve productivity and economic growth and foster UK entrepreneurs and companies.

Relevant Member Experience

The House of Lords Committee on Artificial Intelligence demonstrated the House’s ability to engage with frontier technology and the opportunities and threats arising from it. The knowledge and experience of Members in fields such as

financial services, legal, government and regulatory affairs, consumer protection and wide commercial matters would contribute importantly to the quality of the committee's work.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The possibility of more efficient payments and other financial services would be to the benefit of every aspect of economic and social life in the UK; and the other applications cut across multiple departments' areas of responsibilities and focus. There are key issues not just for financial services regulators, but also for others, such as relating to energy consumption and privacy.

One year time frame

This is a new, complex and fast developing area and the scale of work would therefore be substantial. This, as well as the cross-departmental considerations, is why a focused special inquiry committee would be the most appropriate forum for fully exploring the issues and coming up with recommendations to government, rather than being included in the work of a standing committee. With the single focus of a special inquiry committee, we believe a strong report could be completed within one year.

This proposal is supported by Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted, Lord Hollick, Baroness Kidron and Baroness Wheatcroft.

CHANDOS

Letter from Lord Loomba

Plight of Widows and Others Living in Developing and Fragile States.

Description of Proposal

Widows, unmarried daughters of widows and single parent mothers living in developing, conflict and fragile states are an extremely marginalised group who are discriminated against and suffer human rights abuses and injustice on an unprecedented scale in our modern world.

This problem is so acute that the UN established International Widows Day at its 65th General Assembly in 2010, which takes place every year on 23rd June. The UN's action is not surprising given that widows need urgent and special attention, and who are often trapped in modern day slavery. They are poor, uneducated and unable to get a job and be self-reliant. Many of them depend on their family members, who often abuse them physically, psychologically and sexually. Many lose rights to their property and are subject to behaviour that is unacceptable in the 21st century.

Widows' children suffer the most. Many are unable to go to a school, and often they are victims of trafficking and child marriage.

Purpose of Inquiry

The inquiry would be trying to achieve parity through empowerment for widows alongside their female peers, through a clear and concise agenda focused on scrutinising the problems and needs of widows and their children. The committee's report could then be utilised to inform and call to action governments and stakeholders so that work can be done to ameliorate their plight.

Relevant Member Experience

Members of the House have a great depth of knowledge and vast experience of the multiple humanitarian issues that widows face surviving in hostile environments, even when there is no wider conflict involved. As per the below information on cross-governmental boundaries and policies, members have expertise in these areas and these are issues that cause great concern and are frequently debated in the House.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The situation of widows crosses multiple departmental boundaries within government and wider society; and this is even more pertinent now that Official Development Aid (ODA) is being ear-marked for spending across government departments to assist with, amongst other things, stabilisation and empowerment of societies in fragile and conflict states.

Please see below some examples:

Department for International Development:

Poverty reduction; assisting women suffering from sexual violence in conflict and promoting a halt to the practice; homelessness; street children; forced marriage and child marriage; trafficking and exploitation; promotion of peace and security.

Ministry of Defence:

Promoting peace and security through non-military responses. Situations in fragile and conflict states can invariably impact on widows and their families to a greater degree and extent than the general population. This may often be through forced marriage, making widows suffering in fragile and conflict states younger and younger and highlighting more complex needs that are often misunderstood due to the young age of those concerned.

Department for Trade:

Promoting trade and improving life-chances through economic empowerment can assist widows, who are often marginalised in their own countries due to their status, to gain independence and to help their own societies at the same time.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

The FCO works extensively with many departments, including the above, to facilitate and improve issues that arise, or are long-standing, within cultures, communities and countries that suffer from the aforementioned problems. This is even more so, now that ODA is spent within the FCO itself for these purposes.

One Year Time Frame

Yes.

LOOMBA

Letter from Lord Williams of Elvel

The Private Healthcare Sector

Description of Proposal

The private health care sector has seen a significant expansion in the last two decades. ONS data published in 2015 showed that between 1997 to 2013, annual private health expenditure increased from £10.8bn pa to £25.1bn over the period. LaingBuisson in Dec 2018, estimated that in 2017, there were 4million private health insurance policies in the UK.

The proportion of the total Department of Health budget spent on independent providers increased from 6.1% in 2013/14 to 7.6% in 2015/16. This follows the passage of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act which encouraged the tendering of NHS services.

The Times (Dec 15, 2018) reported that a number of private casualty units had been established to target families faced with lengthening waits at NHS A&E departments whilst it has been suggested that lengthening waits for surgery are pushing more people to pay for their own care.

Attitudes Towards the Private Healthcare Sector

Its role has long been controversial, coloured by ideological and political disagreements as to whether and what role it should play. There have also been concerns that it can have a deleterious impact on the NHS by creaming off staff and by influencing clinical behaviour in a negative way through conflict of interest issues.

The private healthcare sector has also been subject to a number of criticisms about the way it works. The Competition and Markets Authority concluded in 2016, that certain features of the market for privately funded healthcare services were leading to adverse effects on competition in central London. It also reported that HCA's prices were higher than would be expected in a well-functioning market.

There have been reports of botched cosmetic procedures in the UK leading to calls for better legislation to protect patients against rogue practitioners. There has also been criticism of certain IVF clinics for exploiting couples.

Future Role of the Private Healthcare Sector

Despite these controversies, it is at least arguable that the sector is set to see an expansion in the next decade. The NHS is likely to come under severe pressure as demographic pressures intensify and the cost of new treatments and medicines grows exponentially.

The Office for Budgetary Responsibility has estimated that spending on health is projected to rise from 7.6% GDP in 2023/3 to 13.8% in 2067/68. The Lords Select Committee on the Long Term Sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care concluded:

“We are clear that a tax-funded, free-at-the-point-of-use NHS should remain in place as the most appropriate model for the delivery of sustainable health services. In coming years this will require a shift in government priorities or increases in taxation. We are also clear that health spending beyond 2020 needs to increase at least in line with growth in GDP in real-terms.”

Long term this is a huge challenge. Either taxes will go up, or other public services will have to be squeezed or the NHS could become a much-reduced service. Short of a large and consistent increase in funding, it is likely that the UK will see an expanding role in the private sector. Yet its position and role in the UK is one of ambivalence. It is largely absent from strategic debates on policy or involvement in discussions on the infrastructure, including workforce, required to support UK Healthcare.

It is therefore timely to review the role and contribution of the private healthcare sector.

Purpose of Inquiry

It is proposed that the inquiry cover the following areas.

- An analysis of the extent and range of private healthcare including its patient profile.
- Projections on the potential future contribution of the sector including overseas patients.
- The extent to which private healthcare is and should be brought into strategic planning of the NHS including future demands, workforce, highly expensive medical equipment.
- The adequacy of regulation in relation to both institutions and procedures taking in quality, safety and ethical issues.
- The impact of the private sector on the provision of equitable, comprehensive healthcare to all, free at the point of delivery.
- The impact of the private sector on NHS waiting times.
- The extent to which the relationship with consultants who work in both the NHS and the private sector is subject to conflicts of financial and ethical interests.
- Whether the private sector should contribute towards the cost of training professional staff including nurses and doctors.
- The workings of private medical insurance, and its marketing.
- The tax structure of the private healthcare sector and the potential benefit of any changes.

Relevant Member Experience

The House of Lords has many members with wide expertise in health issues who could be expected to make a valuable contribution to a special enquiry.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The proposal would not cut across the work of other Select Committees but could certainly inform them on potential future issues to be examined.

The proposal will cross departmental boundaries because of their impact on several departments in addition to the Department for Health and Social Care. These include the Treasury because of financial implications and the Ministry of

Housing, Communities and Local Government because of the wider impact of health on local communities.

One-year Time Frame

The inquiry could be expected to complete its work in one session.

Additional Comments

In view of possible political sensitivities, it is recommended that the Committee be chaired by a Crossbench peer.

WILLIAMS OF ELVEL

Letter from Baroness Deech and Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia

Reform of Family Law (Divorce & Financial Provision) or Simplifying the Process of Divorce

Description of Proposal

We propose an *ad hoc* committee on the Reform of Family Law (Divorce and Financial Provision). This topic has been widely reported and commented on in the news in the past few years, in part because of The Times newspaper campaign for reform⁸ (and much more); the decision of the Supreme Court in *Owens v Owens*⁹ which illustrated the difficulties of divorce law; the introduction of Baroness Butler-Sloss's Bill, the *Divorce (etc) Law Review Bill* earlier this year and the *Divorce (Financial Provision) Bill*, which received general approval at second reading. Reform is regarded as long overdue.

There has been no substantive family law reform for over 30 years, despite changes in society, and Law Commission proposals have been implemented only in small part. Experiments in digitalising divorce procedures do not and cannot deal with the deficiencies in the substance of divorce law: indeed the introduction of electronic access might well be made more straightforward if the law were simplified. The need for reform is urgent because of changes in modern family formation and the link between mental health issues of young people and family breakdown. The waste of assets in disputes over matrimonial property can also damage children materially. The financial burden on the state might be reduced, and gender equality advanced if divorce law and the accompanying financial provision law were reformed. Cuts in legal aid have left the majority of couples unrepresented in court, ignorant of their rights, and reliant on the judge to assist them in a way which is not the proper role of a judge. The Family Justice Council Guidance on Financial Needs does not seem to be used by parties. Until now, governments have been reluctant to embark on reform because of the controversial nature of the topic, and because there are sharp divisions of opinion within and outside Parliament. A cross party *ad hoc* committee inquiry could give the government the steer it needs and put the various proposals that have been put forward on a sound basis.

Purpose of Inquiry

In relation to divorce, the inquiry can go beyond the proposals for reform of divorce, which have so far come only from lawyers' organisations, to ascertaining the opinion of a wider range of people, including members of the public. The

8 The Times, *Divorce Reform* (8 September 2018): available on <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/divorce-reform-d86gkk7jw>

9 *Owens v Owens* (2018) UKSC 2017/0077

inquiry ought to be able to come up with a scheme that works, and is not widely opposed, or is thought to undermine marriage and damage partners who are reluctant to end the marriage quickly. In relation to financial provision, reform of the law is essential if any version of no-fault divorce is to be introduced. The inquiry could consider the working of well established equal matrimonial property schemes in for example, Scotland, France, Sweden and Ontario.

Reform along those lines could save legal costs, preserve more of the assets for children, provide more predictability and reduce bitterness. More certainty would be welcomed by the public and those who cannot afford legal representation during divorce.

Relevant Member Experience

A cross party inquiry could usefully call on the expertise in these fields that exists in the House, and assist the government in considering both the opposition to the proposals and in formulating proposals that attract consensus. Discussion of the topics has so far largely been confined to lawyers and it is time to open them up to wider consideration. There are many members of the House with deep experience in these areas, such as legal practitioners, judges, philosophers, educators, social policy formers, academics, health, child law, religious and financial experts.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

This proposed committee could complement the work of Commons committees - Home Affairs, Justice, Women and Equality. The topics cross departmental policy boundaries - education, justice, communities, the treasury. It could be confined to one year by limiting the subject matter. For example, questions that could be considered are whether “no fault” divorce should be introduced and the impact it might have; how can the dissolution of assets of the family that is breaking up be made more predictable and fair; how to protect the needs of children up to the age of 21 (if in higher education); and whether there are useful models in other countries.

One Year Time Frame

Yes, if limited as described, to two linked topics. There is a great deal of written material and many experienced people who could give well informed evidence.

Additional Comments

Topics that could be included are divorce law, financial provision law, prenuptial contracts, child maintenance and civil partnerships. The most urgent are divorce and financial provision. Proposals to reform substantive divorce law in the UK have come in the main from lawyers, have focused on one case (“hard cases make bad law”) and a selected piece of research. Other researchers have concluded that it is the fact of separation that hurts children, rather than the process of divorce. There is no point in moving to “no-fault” divorce in order to reduce conflict between the couple, as has been argued, if the accompanying financial provision law remains as costly, unfair, confrontational and long drawn out as it is. There are many cases where half or more of the couple’s assets go to legal costs. A study has shown that financial matters take on average over 14 months to settle and the effects of the settlement will of course last for a lifetime, whereas the divorce decree is over in a few months.¹⁰

10 Aviva, *The Hidden Cost of Divorce and Separation* (Winter 2018) www.aviva.co.uk/adviser/documents/view/family_finances_mini_report_2018.pdf

We would suggest that priority be given to divorce and financial provision law, but if an ad hoc committee is regarded as inappropriate because the Divorce (etc) Law Review Bill (if it is ever passed) calls for a review by the Lord Chancellor, then the ad hoc committee could deal with financial provision and prenuptial contracts. There is no agreement as to what “no fault” divorce might look like and a proposal for a six month unilateral unopposable notice scheme has met with some opposition. Scottish law in this area, which has recently been well reviewed, could provide a model for reform.

DEECH AND SHACKLETON OF BELGRAVIA

Letter from Lord Dubs

Refugees: Global and National Challenges

Description of Proposal

There are an estimated 30 million refugees in the world today and another 35 million internally-displaced persons and these figures represent the backdrop to the proposed Inquiry Committee.

The Inquiry Committee would consider movements of people fleeing danger and the global and international responses. The Inquiry Committee would also consider the adequacy of actions taken by various countries. It would be concerned with the situation in the countries of origin, transit countries and destination countries. British policy would be considered both as regards foreign policy, international development and home affairs. The Inquiry committee would also consider the adequacy of the 1951 Geneva Convention and the lack of protection for internally-displaced persons.

Purpose of Inquiry

The Inquiry would examine the part that the British government could play both in influencing the politics of refugees globally, as well as the nature of British cooperation with other countries, especially in Europe. It would also examine what part British policies could play in helping to tackle difficulties in source countries as well as countries of transit.

Relevant Member Experience

Members of the House have a good understanding of foreign policy and of the situation in many countries in the world. They also have a good understanding of the implications of our wider foreign policy on domestic issues.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

I have already indicated above that the approach to refugees should involve a joined-up approach as regards foreign affairs, international development and domestic policy.

One Year Time Frame

I believe the work could be completed within a year provided the evidence sessions are carefully planned and focussed and tight discipline is maintained. A great deal of the evidence sessions could take place in Westminster but it might for example be necessary to visit UNHCR in Geneva.

Additional Comments

I have frequently visited other countries in connection with refugees. The issues for inquiry I have suggested above are frequently raised at domestic and international events and conferences but are seldom answered satisfactorily.

DUBS

Letter from the Bishop of Ely

Regenerating Market Towns

Description of proposal

Market towns are described by the centre for towns as small to medium-sized semi-rural towns with traditional market ‘rights’. Examples include Skipton, Abingdon, Market Harborough, Ludlow and Hexham. Generally, Market Towns face a unique set of issues and challenges that combine those faced by both rural areas and those faced by larger towns and cities.

Small and medium sized towns, away from the fringes of larger urban centres, experience many issues of rural deprivation, but on a significantly larger scale. Small and medium towns also share with their surrounding rural areas a tendency to have falling numbers of children and young people under the age of 24 between the 1981 and 2011 censuses. The numbers of middle aged and older people have risen considerably with increasing levels of social isolation and loneliness. This contrasts with significant growth in the number of young people in the major cities. Although rural areas reveal similar pattern the total numbers of people involved in small and medium towns are proportionately greater. Small and medium sized towns face many of the challenges that affect larger cities, although at a smaller scale. Recent research to examine issues in the deprived outer estate areas of the country identifies large estates on the fringes of all major cities. Indices of multiple deprivation in the outer estates around some smaller towns match the worst found on the fringes of major industrial cities. The total numbers involved may not be as great in each individual case but become highly significant once the full extent of outer estate deprivation is totalled across all the nation’s smaller towns. In common with larger centres, small towns have seen the loss of shopping facilities in their high streets. Retail outlets have been established in ‘out of town’ locations, but seldom have the public transport available to connect to market town populations. Smaller towns have lost shopping facilities altogether, with residents obliged to travel to larger towns, often again poorly served by public transport in doing so.

Market towns often act as social and economic hubs for the surrounding rural areas and the rural collation named market towns as a key challenge in their report “The Rural Challenge: Achieving sustainable rural communities for the 21st century” saying: Flourishing market towns are a mainstay of rural economic and social life. They also make a big impact on the rural living environment. But too often that impact has not been improved by new development over recent decades. We believe that the quality of new housing and supporting services needs to be radically improved – to be more distinctive and sensitive to local place, to be greener, and to engage the local community in ways which ensure that they genuinely meet local needs.

The special inquiry would aim to speak to experts on the matter to better understand these issues and the actions that would be required to help these towns to thrive.

Purpose of inquiry

The inquiry would aim to better understand the challenges facing rural towns and, where appropriate come up with a set of recommendations for the flourishing of rural towns (and by extension the rural communities they often serve as social and economic hubs).

Relevant Member Experience

In a similar vein to the Regenerating Seaside Towns committee, a committee on Market Towns would seek to utilise the expertise and experience of Members of the House as well as engaging with experts and stakeholders from industry and the third sector.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The challenges faced by market towns cannot be confined to a single department. Some of the departments we would anticipate being concerned with this issue are; the Departments for Education, Transport, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Health and Social care and the ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

One Year Time Frame

We believe this is sufficient time to examine the issues at hand.

Additional Comments

The Diocese of Ely (The diocese over which the Lord Bishop of Ely presides) has a shared project ('Changing Market Towns'), with major funding from the Church Commissioners. This is in two phases across all out Market Towns in north and west Cambs, working in partnership with local authorities and statutory and other agencies, to grow the flourishing of those communities, with the church playing its part in that.

ELY

Letter from the Bishop of St Albans*The Social and Economic Impacts of the Gambling Industry**Description of Proposal*

Gambling has changed significantly since 2005 when the Gambling Act was passed.

- There has also been change since the Commons' 2012 post-legislative review.
- For example, the word 'loot-boxes' did not even exist in 2012 and in-game gambling has exploded with 31% of children having used this form of gambling.

Currently, the country is witnessing a year-on-year rise in children gambling. Gambling addicts number stand at around 450,000.

Moreover, gambling has changed with the rise of online and in-app forms of gambling.

Neither the sheer rise in gambling-related issues nor the change in type of gambling was anticipated by the original Act or considered fully by the 2012 post-legislative review.

- A current, contemporary and thorough assessment of the present situation is required to ensure legislation matches on-the-ground reality.
- Furthermore, there is little data into gambling and the experience and knowledge of the House would allow for discussions around the sector to be fully informed.

Purpose of Inquiry

The committee would:

- This would be a genuine opportunity to have an overview of the industry as it currently stands and achieve a dispassionate and accurate set of facts and figures.
- If a post-legislative committee this would consider the impacts of the Gambling Act 2005 and assess if it has achieved its initial aims.

Relevant Member Experience

There is strong support in the House as indicated in the ‘additional comments’ section. Many peers are experts on health, addiction, crime, tax-law, children, the Internet, and of course, gambling; some of those involved in the 2005 Act are now Members of the House.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Nearly all departments are involved in gambling and its impacts.

- DCMS is the lead department under the auspices of the Minister for Sport. Yet it would also be of relevance to the Minister for Digital due to online gambling.
- The Treasury earns millions in taxation and controlling the rate at which gambling tax is set.
- Department for Health has an interest due to the estimated £260m to £1.2bn cost to the NHS and the two NHS gambling clinics.
- Home Office would be interested in the level of crime and the use of police resources linked with betting shops. They also might wish to comment on the legislation around underage gambling.
- The DWP has a vested interest in getting an accurate understanding of the gambling industry as vulnerable people are more likely to gamble.
- The DHCLG might also wish to comment on the huge expansion of betting shops in local communities.
- Department for Education might also want to comment specifically on children gambling but also about educating young people about gambling.

- The MOJ might have opinions on gambling within prisons, or criminality linked to gambling addiction.

One Year Time Frame

Yes. If this is shortlisted, I would be delighted to work alongside the secretariat to come up with the list of names and evidence sessions.

Additional Comments

Being on the statute books for the past 13 years, in force for 11 years, with limited amendments and unreviewed since 2012, there is significant justification for this to be a post-legislative scrutiny committee. Although I would welcome the views of the Liaison Committee as to whether this is the best course of action.

I understand the Committee does not take account of number of supporters, but 24 peers have now written to specify their support.

Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist, The Lord Filkin CBE, Baroness Finlay of Llandaff, The Baroness Howe of Idlicote CBE, The Rt. Hon. the Lord McNally and Lord Wills support this proposal.

ST ALBANS

Letter from Lord Alton of Liverpool

The UK's Fulfilment of the Duties to Prevent and Punish the Crime of Genocide: 70 Years After UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Description of Proposal

The inquiry will scrutinise the fulfilment of the UK's obligations flowing from the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, namely, the duty to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. The inquiry will consider the response of the UK government to the post-Holocaust cases of genocide, with particular attention to the most recent cases of potential genocide, including the Daesh atrocities against religious minorities in Syria and Iraq (and the recent exposure of mass graves) and the horrific atrocities perpetrated against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state, Burma.

In relation to the duty to prevent, the inquiry will examine the steps taken by the UK government to identify and consider early warning signs of mass atrocities, especially where the atrocities project the hallmarks of genocide.

In relation to the duty to punish, the inquiry will look at the existing provisions criminalising the crime of genocide and how they are being used by courts in the UK (recently debated in the House). Furthermore, the inquiry will scrutinise how the UK contributes to the international efforts to punish those responsible for genocide, including at the International Criminal Court and by UN mechanisms.

The inquiry will consider the approach of other states in relation to the duties under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and whether it could be adopted but the UK Government to strengthen its fulfilment of the obligations.

Lastly, the inquiry will scrutinise how the global commitment of the Responsibility to Protect helps to broaden the scope of the UN Convention on the Prevention

and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to prevent other mass atrocities like war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Purpose of Inquiry

The inquiry will consider whether the current practice is adequate and what other steps the UK government could be taking to give full effect to its obligations under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The inquiry will also make recommendations for the UK government to consider, in order to ensure that the UK meets its obligations under international law and so contributes to the global commitment to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. Such a comprehensive inquiry has never been conducted by either House. As the 9th December 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, it is crucial to consider the UK's role in turning the legacy of this landmark document into reality.

Relevant Member Experience

Members of the House with particular expertise which have spoken recently on these issues include:

Baroness Butler-Sloss Q.C., Lord Carlile of Berriew Q.C., Lord Brennan Q.C., Lord Pannick Q.C., Lord Mackay of Clashfern Q.C., Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws Q.C., Baroness Cox, Lord Forsyth of Drumlean, Lord Marlesford, Lord Campbell of Pittenweem and Baroness Helic.

Other Members of the House whose expertise could contribute to the inquiry include:

Lord Hope of Craighead, former Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

Lord Stirrup, former Chief of Defence Staff, has a detailed knowledge of Iraq.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, former junior Foreign Office Minister, former Minister of State for the Middle East. Member EU External Affairs Sub-Committee.

Lord Judge, former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales.

Lord Trimble, as former First Minister for Northern Ireland, professor of law and barrister.

Lord Woolf, as former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales and as a member of the Privy Council he conducted a review of the working methods of the European Court of Human Rights.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick, member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations, International Relations Committee.

Lord Wood of Anfield, chair of the United Nations Association, UK and member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead, former Shadow Spokesperson for International Development, former Minister of State for Africa and UN and former Minister of State for Europe. Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Genocide Prevention.

Lord Evans of Weardale, was Director-General of the British Security Service, the United Kingdom's domestic security and counter-intelligence service.

They could be assisted by experts in the field, including Sir Geoffrey Nice QC, who prosecuted crimes of genocide in Bosnia, and who has expressed his willingness to be an Advisor to the Inquiry.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

It is envisaged that officials would be invited to submit evidence in a focused session. Witnesses could be drawn from some of the following departments, and submissions sought from others:

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Department of Defence
- Department of Justice
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Attorney General's Office

One-year Time Frame

The proposed special inquiry committee is capable of being completed in one year with an attempt to finalise it within a shorter period of time. The inquiry will conduct between 5 and 10 expert witness sessions of up to two hours per session. The witnesses will include experts from the above identified departments, legal academics and practitioners and others with relevant expertise.

Additional Comments

The inquiry could also involve a public call for evidence from individuals or groups with relevant expertise to ensure that the inquiry is as comprehensive as possible to significant contribute to the debates on the topic.

ALTON OF LIVERPOOL

Letter of Support for Lord Alton's Proposal

We write to express our support for the proposal recently submitted by Lord Alton of Liverpool, to establish a special inquiry (ad-hoc) Committee in Session 2019-2020, titled 'Inquiry into the UK's fulfilment of the duties to prevent and punish the crime of genocide: 70 years after UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.'

We understand that the Inquiry is aimed at scrutinising the fulfilment of the UK's obligations flowing from the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (the Genocide Convention), namely, the duty to prevent and punish the crime of genocide. The Inquiry will consider the response of HMG to the post-Holocaust cases of genocide, with particular attention to the most recent cases of potential genocide, including the Daesh atrocities against religious minorities in Syria and Iraq (and the recent exposure of mass graves) and the horrific atrocities perpetrated against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state, Burma (but not forgetting the cases of genocide in Bosnia, Rwanda and many more). We are very pleased that the proposed Inquiry will consider whether the current practice and response of HMG in such circumstances is adequate and what other steps HMG could be taking to give full effect to its obligations under the Genocide Convention.

We believe that the establishment of such an Inquiry has widespread support among backbench Members of the House and is crucial to ensure that the UK meets its obligations under international law and so contributes to the global commitment to prevent and punish the crime of genocide, 70 years after the adoption of the Genocide Convention and for decades to come.

We are also inspired by the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2018, introduced by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J, and signed into law in the United States on 11 December 2018. The Act ensures that the US taxpayer money is directed to specifically assist the persecuted communities and to assist those dealing with investigating and prosecuting the crimes. This is a positive step to strengthen the US commitment to its duty to punish the crime of genocide, but also to help the persecuted communities that are on the verge of annihilation.

We were also heartened that Mr Speaker recently allowed a Seminar on these questions to be held for Members of both Houses in Speaker's House.

In addition, a capacity meeting was held in the Boothroyd Room, on 12 December, to consider the genocide against Yazidis and was addressed by the young Yazidi woman who was raped and enslaved by Daesh. Every speaker raised the failure to bring to justice those responsible for the genocide. Through a series of recent questions in the House, Lord Alton highlighted the 200 mass graves of Yazidis, Christians and other minorities and the lack of action to bring perpetrators to justice.

Genocide is the crime above all crimes and if this does not warrant the attention of the House it is hard to imagine what does.

We hope that Lord Alton's proposed Inquiry will consider the challenges posed by those who contributed to the Seminar, by the new American legislation, and also examine what more HMG could do to avert further genocides.

We ask you to support Lord Alton's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Alderdice,

Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE QC,

Lord Collins of Highbury,

The Bishop of Coventry,

Lord Dholakia OBE DL,

Baroness D'Souza CMG,

Lord Eames OM,

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff,

Lord Lexden OBE,

Baroness Lister of Burtersett CBE,

Lord Mackay of Clashfern KT,

Lord Morrow,
 Baroness Nye,
 Baroness O'Loan DBE,
 Lord Pickles,
 Lord Polak CBE,
 Lord Shipley,
 Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE PC,
 Baroness Whitaker,
 The Bishop of Peterborough,
 Lord Wills

Letter from Viscount Hailsham

Violence in Prisons

Description of Proposal

The Inquiry should be directed into an investigation as to the extent and causes of violence within the prison system: the policies in place to reduce the level of violence: the success or otherwise of those policies and what more could be done.

Purpose of Inquiry

The purpose of the Inquiry would be to address a very serious but often overlooked problem and to suggest possible ways of mitigating that problem.

Relevant Member Experience

There is a considerable body of relevant knowledge and expertise within the House- including those with experience of the prison service, with sentencing policy, crime prevention, the probation service, mental health, education and training for work.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

The Inquiry would indeed cross departmental boundaries e.g. Justice, Home Office, Education and Health.

One-year Time Frame

Yes, it could be completed within a year.

HAILSHAM

Letter from Lord Grade of Yarmouth

Youth Crime

Description of Proposal

Violent youth gang crime is growing and public concern is mounting. Police response is unable to stem the tide of stabbings and murders.

Responses to gang crime are many and various, there appears to be no sharing of best practise and no means of assessing what is and isn't working in our major cities.

Purpose of Inquiry

The Committee would be charged with examining and evaluating the many grass roots initiatives, by youth leaders and police and other agencies across all areas of the UK, and make recommendations designed to reduce gang crime.

Cross-cutting Departmental Boundaries

Evidence gathering would focus mainly on Home Office constituency, but might overlap marginally into Justice and Department of Health.

One-year Time Frame

Given the urgency of the issue, the aim must be to report within a year.

Additional Comments

I don't believe the Commons has this issue on their Select Committee agenda despite the urgency of this seemingly intractable social crisis. I have spoken to a number of youth leaders who have developed and implemented (however limited) programmes to turn the tide of violence.

GRADE OF YARMOUTH

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF MEMBERS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Lord Alderdice

I am Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict - an unpaid position at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford.

Lord Alton of Liverpool

Patron or Trustee of several charities that have helped victims of genocide and crimes against humanity and advocated on their behalf.

Lord Balfe

Helped design systems of reimbursement for Public Bodies and pension funds. I would be happy to join a committee charged with the realisation of this proposal.

Baroness Barker

Joint-Chair of the UK APPG on Sexual and Reproductive Health. Want to improve health service provisions for women and girls in the UK with a particular focus on reducing- abortion gestation, -NHS expenditure and improve the quality of care experienced by women and girls in need of Abortion services.

Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist

Initiated a donation of £1m to the Royal Marsden Hospital from Bet 365.

Lord Blunkett

Involvement as Home Secretary.

Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted

No interests declared.

Baroness Boycott

For ten years Baroness Boycott ran The London Food Board which worked across the food system. This is her main area of expertise and she brings great urgency to this problem.

Lord Cameron of Dillington

No interests declared.

Lord Campell-Savours

No interests declared.

Baroness Campbell of Surbiton

Chairs the Independent Living Strategy Group (a network of NGOs and charities interested in the development of independent living for disabled people). and Is the recipient of PIP and Access to Work. She is also a patron of several disability charities.

Lord Carlisle of Berriew

No relevant interests to declare.

Viscount Chandos

A trustee of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, which has limited partnership interests in certain venture capital funds investing in this area. He has no beneficial interest in these funds, nor does he have any personal investments in cryptocurrencies or distributed ledger technology companies.

Lord Clark of Windermere

No interests declared.

Lord Bishop of Coventry

No interests declared.

Baroness Cox

Member of the APPG on 'Honour'-Based Abuse. The group has heard numerous testimonies from victims and survivors of abuse. It exists to raise awareness of 'honour'-based abuse with a view to attempting to expose and eradicate such practices in the UK.

Baroness Cox's Private Member's Bill [Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill] seeks to require legal registration of all religious marriages, thereby ensuring women have equal access to relevant rights.

Lord Collins of Highbury

No interests declared.

Lord Cooper of Windrush

Co-founder of the opinion research company Populus, and as such have an ongoing interest and professional experience in the study and analysis of demographics.

Baroness Corston

No interests declared.

Lord Cromwell

No interests declared.

Lord Davies of Stamford

No interests declared.

Baroness Deech

Former tutor in (family) law, Oxford University.

Employee of the Law Commission, 1965-67.

Lord Dholakia

Member of the APPG on 'Honour'-Based Abuse. The group has heard numerous testimonies from victims and survivors of abuse. It exists to raise awareness of 'honour'-based abuse with a view to attempting to expose and eradicate such practices in the UK.

I am a member of the APPG on the abolition of capital punishment. I have participated in discussions in a number of countries towards this aim and will continue to do so.

Was involved in the Working Party set up by the Home Office to look at 'Gender Based Discrimination and 'Honour' Based Abuse' and make recommendations. I had followed up my interest by attending a number of meetings arranged by Lady Cox on this subject. I have also been approached by individuals who have been victims of gender based discrimination.

I have spoken on the issue of genocide in a debate on this subject raised by Lord Alton. I am also concerned about the role of governments in countries like Burma, Kenya, DRC and Iran where indiscriminate violence is perpetrated on local population.

I am a member of the APPG on the abolition of capital punishment. I have participated in discussions in a number of countries towards this aim and will continue to do so.

Baroness D'Souza

No interests declared.

Lord Dubs

I am a member of the migration committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

I have also been involved with amending UK legislation on behalf of child refugees.

I have also served on the European Union Committee External Affairs sub-committee and one of our recent studies concerned operation Sophia, dealing with people trafficking across the Mediterranean and the loss of life through drowning.

I have frequently visited other countries in connection with refugees.

Lord Eames

As former Anglican Primate of All Ireland I have been deeply involved in the Irish peace process and as actively concerned with human rights issues internationally.

The Lord Bishop of Ely

No interests declared.

Lord Faulks

No interests declared.

Lord Filkin

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff

No interests declared.

Baroness Flather

No interests declared.

Baroness Fookes

I co-chair the APPGHG.

Lord Freyberg

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Golding

Chair Citizen Card.

Lord Grade of Yarmouth

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Greengross

No interests declared.

Lord Grocott

No interests declared.

Viscount Hailsham

Former Prisons Minister

A former MP who had a prison in my former constituency

A former member of the Independent Monitoring Board of HMP Ranby.

A former barrister practising in the criminal law.

Lord Hamilton of Epsom

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts

I have a long standing interest in demographic issues. I published a pamphlet on the subject last year – copies available on request.

Lord Hollick

No interests declared.

Baroness Howe of Idlicote

No interests declared.

Lord Hylton

Long experience of Housing Aid, Housing Associations and Refugee and Asylum issues.

Member of All Party Parliamentary Group on Penal Affairs.

I am married with 5 children and 15 grandchildren.

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington

No interests declared.

Lord Krebs

Chairman, Oxford Risk Ltd (9 per cent shareholding; company enables clients make better-informed decisions).

Deputy Chair and Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation.
Chair, Wellcome Trust Advisory Group on Sustaining Health.
Scientific Adviser to Marks and Spencer plc.
Scientific Adviser to Ajinomoto Co Inc.
Adviser to Tesco plc on sustainability.
Member, Advisory Board of the Energy and Climate Information Unit
Emeritus Professor of Zoology, Oxford University.

Baroness Kidron

Work with international lawyers on a paper to establish Norms for the Trustworthy Adoption of A/IS in Legal Systems.

Lord Kirkwood of Kirkhope

No interests declared.

Lord Lamont of Lerwick

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Lexden

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett

No relevant interest to declare.

Lord King of Bridgwater

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Lipsey

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Loomba

I am founder, chairman, and trustee of the Loomba Foundation; an organisation set up to help widows worldwide. Since setting up the Loomba Foundation in 1997, I have worked on widows' projects in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Syria, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa Malawi, Rwanda, Guatemala and Chile. In the House of Lords, I have debated on several occasions on the issues relating to widows, human rights and education of children especially in South Asia, across Africa and South America.

Lord Luce

No interests declared.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern

No interests declared.

Lord Mawson OBE

Years of experience of working in Britain's inner cities.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering

Chair of the PassCiC Board which administers the Citizens Card for young people, thought this is specifically not considered as an identity card.

Lord McNally

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Morrow

No interests to declare.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Nye

Trustee of the Burma Campaign UK.

Baroness O'Loan

No interests declared.

Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve

Writes and publishes on the ethics of communication.

Has recently given public lectures under the titles Privacy in a Digital Age and Public Reason in a Digital Age.

Bishop of Peterborough

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Pickles

No interests declared.

Baroness Pitkeathley

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Polak

No relevant interests to declare.

Baroness Randerson

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Rooker

Previously worked at the Home Office.

Ex Chair of Food Standards Agency and Environmental Minister. Member of EU Energy and Environment sub-committee.

Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia

Partner, Payne Hicks Beach, solicitors.

Lord Sheikh

I am actively involved in combatting Islamophobia and radicalisation.

Lord Shipley

No interests declared.

Bishop of St Albans

No relevant interest to declare.

Lord Steel of Aikwood

No interests declared.

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara

No interests declared.

Lord Tebbit

Member of the APPG on 'Honour'-Based Abuse. The group has heard numerous testimonies from victims and survivors of abuse. It exists to raise awareness of 'honour'-based abuse with a view to attempting to expose and eradicate such practices in the UK.

Baroness Thomas of Winchester

Is a Trustee of Muscular Dystrophy UK and receives DLA. She is a Patron of several disability-related charities, and a member of MCC/Lord's Accessibility Group.

Baroness Tonge

Joint-Chair of the UK APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health.

Want to improve health service provisions for women and girls in the UK with a particular focus on reducing- abortion gestation, -NHS expenditure and improve the quality of care experienced by women and girls in need of Abortion services.

Baroness Wheatcroft

No interests declared.

Baroness Whitaker

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Williams of Elvel

No relevant interests to declare.

Lord Wills

Several of Lord Wills' father's closest relatives were murdered in the Holocaust.