



## Parliamentary Report Issue 10: August 2022

### 1 Highlights

#### In the news

- **Women's Health Strategy.** On 20 July, the Government published its Women's Health Strategy for England aimed at tackling the gender health gap. The strategy was informed by a call for evidence, which received almost 100,000 responses from individuals and 400 from organisations. They highlighted a need for a greater focus on women-specific health conditions which are often dismissed as 'women's problems'. The Government has appointed [Professor Dame Lesley Regan](#) as the new [Women's Health Ambassador](#), who will support the Government in implementing the Strategy. There is a short summary in the August 2022 Newsletter and a detailed report is included with the August Sendout.
- **Rape trials.** The Government has announced that Crown Courts are to be upgraded with better technology and specialist training for staff to help in rape trials, with pilots in Newcastle, Leeds and London. Earlier this year, data compiled by BBC News suggested serious sexual offences were taking the longest time on record to go through Crown Courts.
- **Bills put on hold.** The Media Bill, which was expected to include the Johnson Government's plans for the privatisation of Channel 4 and the BBC Funding Review, and the Online Safety Bill have been put on hold until a new government is in place.

#### In this Report

- **New consultations**
  - None
- **Closed consultations. Government response published**
  - [Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights](#) – Government [response](#). [Law Society view](#): 'the Bill of Rights Bill would damage the rule of law and make it harder for people to protect their rights'.
  - [Making Gina 10mg vaginal tablets available from pharmacies](#) – Government [response](#). Gina will be reclassified from prescription only to a pharmacy medicine.



- **Select Committees. New enquiries and Committee reports**

- **Women and Equalities.** New enquiry into [how effectively the Government’s National Disability Strategy covering disabled people and those with learning disabilities and autism is being implemented and further developed.](#)
- **Women and Equalities.** New enquiry looking at [how women and girls are effected throughout their lives by attitudes towards them from early years education to university. Includes sexism, lad culture and spiking.](#)
- **Women and Equalities.** Report on [menopause and the workplace.](#) ‘Employers’ lack of support for menopausal symptoms is pushing highly skilled and experienced women out of work, with knock-on effects on the gender pay gap, pension gap and the number of women in senior leadership positions’.
- **Education Committee.** Report on [Children’s Homes.](#) ‘Host of indefensible system failings damaging educational and employment outcomes for children in care’.
- **Justice Committee.** Report on [Women in Prison.](#) ‘Limited progress made in developing alternatives to custodial sentences for women amid concerns that the female prison population may rise by a third in the next three years’.
- **Transport Committee.** Report on [Integrated Rail Plan.](#) ‘A thorough reassessment of the Government’s Integrated Rail Plan is essential’ to ensure this once-in-a-generation opportunity to address regional imbalances is not missed.

## 2 Public Consultations

All consultations can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

Open Consultations	Description	How to respond	Closing Date
	There are no open consultations of relevance to NCW		



### **3 Closed Consultations: Government Response Published** (click link for report)

[Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights](#) – Government response to consultation proposals to replace the Human Rights Act with a Bill of Rights in order to restore a proper balance between the rights of individuals, personal responsibility and the wider public interest.

[Making Gina 10mg vaginal tablets available from pharmacies](#) – Government response to consultation on proposal to make tablets used for the treatment of vaginal atrophy in postmenopausal women aged 50 years and above additionally available from pharmacies

### **4 Closed Consultations: Awaiting Government Response** (click link for summary of initial consultation)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan](#) – a discussion paper and call for evidence to ask the public a range of questions to help develop the new plan

[SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time](#) – Views on proposals on the future of the special educational needs and disabilities

[Free early years education entitlement for 2-year-olds with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\)](#) – Consultation on changes to the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds.

[Nature recovery green paper](#) – Consultation on the Government’s policy proposals regarding protected sites and species.

[Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse](#) – Views on the proposals to introduce regulations to enable victims of domestic abuse who need to move to another local authority district to qualify for an allocation of social housing in the new area.

[Banning the supply of commonly littered single use plastics](#) – Includes plates, cutlery, balloon sticks and expanded and extruded polystyrene food and drink containers.

[Banning conversion therapy](#) – Views on proposals on how to ban conversion therapy



Making flexible working the default – Consultation on proposals to reform the Flexible Working Regulations 2014, which granted the right to request a flexible working arrangement to all employees with 26 weeks continuous service.

The impact of ending the freedom of movement on adult social care – Covers skills shortages over a range of caring roles including care workers, registered nurses and managerial roles.

Introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme – Views on proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme for drinks containers.

Consistency in household and business waste recycling – Views on increasing the consistency to reduce confusion in the materials that can be collected and make sure that less waste goes to landfill and more is recycled.

### 3 Oral Questions: Women and Equalities

Parliament currently in recess.

### 4 Select Committees with open enquiries of potential interest to NCW

Details of Select Committees can be found by [clicking here](#)

**Women and Equalities Committee** [click here](#)

Inquiries	Description	Status
<a href="#">National Disability Strategy</a>	Scrutinising the implementation and further development of the Government's July 2021 National Disability Strategy	Closed for submitting evidence.

	<p>covering disabled people and those with learning disabilities and autism. The Committee will investigate the extent to which stakeholder contributions informed the strategy; how well it will help disabled people to enjoy equal living standards and life opportunities to those without disabilities; progress on the strategy so far; how effectively the Government is involving disabled people in the strategy's implementation and further development; how well the strategy is being funded and measured for success; how compatible it is with the UK's treaty obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; what more could the Government do to mitigate the effects of future crises on people with disabilities.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>Attitudes towards woman and girls in educational settings</u></a></p>	<p>An extension of the enquiry into violence against women and girls looking at how they are effected throughout their lives by attitudes towards them from early years education to university. Includes sexism, 'lad culture', spiking and sexual misconduct</p>	<p>Most recent oral evidence session 28 June 2022. <a href="#"><u>Link to evidence</u></a></p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Preventing violence against women and girls</u></a></p>	<p>Following its April evidence session, <a href="#"><u>Changing cultures underpinning male violence against women</u></a>, the Committee has launched the next stage of its work on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls. The Committee's work will begin with a literature review of existing evidence submitted as part of the Government's consultation for its July 2021 <a href="#"><u>Tackling violence against women and girls strategy</u></a>, as well as written</p>	<p>Opened on 5 November. Specialist advisers appointed <a href="#"><u>Click for their details</u></a></p>

	<p>and oral evidence gathered by the Home Affairs Select Committee as part of its inquiry <a href="#">Violence against women and girls</a>. Click here for <a href="#">full details of how the Committee will conduct its inquiry</a>.</p> <p>Click here for <a href="#">an excellent summary of the topic</a>, including what VAWG is, why it happens, how it can be prevented, international and domestic obligations to prevent it, Government action and the Committee's work to date.</p>	No publications or events at present.
<a href="#">Pornography and its impact on violence to women and girls</a>	As part of its wider programme of work on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, the Women and Equalities Committee is to hold the first of two evidence sessions exploring the impact of pornography on attitudes towards women and girls. It will consider whether the Online Safety Bill offers an opportunity for the Government to better regulate pornographic content in order to reduce harm. It will also look at how the porn industry is currently regulated and the potential impact of rapidly developing technologies.	Most recent oral evidence session 28 June 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence</a>
<a href="#">Equality and the asylum process</a>	Examining the fairness and discrimination in the asylum process on people with diverse protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act), including on the basis of sex. Will also consider people's experiences of the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme	Most recent oral evidence session 4 July 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence</a>
<a href="#">Menopause and the Workplace</a>	To examine the extent of discrimination experienced by menopausal people in the workplace and investigate how	<a href="#">Report published 19 July 2022.</a>



	Government policy and workplace practices can better support those experiencing menopause	<a href="#">Click here for summary.</a>
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**Health and Social Care Committee** [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
<a href="#">The future of general practice</a>	To examine the key challenges facing general practice over the next five years and the current barriers to access to general practice	Most recent oral evidence session 12 July 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence</a>

**Education Committee** [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
Children's homes	Educational outcomes and destinations. Quality of support. Rates of criminalisation. Other areas.	<a href="#">Report published on 12 July.</a> <a href="#">Click here for summary.</a>

**Home Affairs** [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
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<a href="#">Home Office Policy on Ukrainian Refugees</a>	<p>Investigation into the basis for the UK's current approach, requiring visas for those fleeing Ukraine, and criticism from legal professionals about the practical operation of the Ukraine Family Scheme; what work is being done to remove the practical barriers facing those attempting to come to the UK; and what funding and support structures are in place to support Ukrainian refugees once they come to the UK.</p>	<p>Most recent oral evidence session on 16 March 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence.</a></p>
<a href="#">Violence against women</a>	<p>How this issue is being addressed. Programme of work will be decided after evidence has been received</p>	<p>Opening oral evidence session 9 June 2021. <a href="#">Link to evidence</a></p>

## Justice

[click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
<a href="#">Women in prison</a>	<p>Examining progress made in the last 10 years to reduce the number of women in custody and understanding how well female offenders' needs are met</p>	<p>Report published on 26 July 2022. <a href="#">Click here for summary</a></p>



## Work and Pensions [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
<a href="#">Children in Poverty: maintenance service (CMS)</a>	Final part of investigation into children in poverty following no recourse to public funds and measurement and targets. The inquiry will explore how the DWP might improve the CMS to better support children in poverty and examine the barriers parents face when trying to access CMS support as well as how the system interacts with wider social security, including Universal Credit following 2012 reforms. In March, the National Audit Committee said the DWP should be doing more.	Closed for accepting evidence. <a href="#">Link to evidence</a>

## Science and Technology Committee

[click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
<a href="#">Diversity in STEM</a>	An investigation into the extent of underrepresentation from ethnic minority groups, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, people with disabilities and women working in STEM, and ask what policies the Government, industry and academia could use to address it.	Most recent oral evidence session 15 June 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence.</a>



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## Transport Committee [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
<a href="#">Integrated Rail Plan</a>	Investigating the implications of the IRP on the economy and rail capacity and connectivity, including how it will level up communities in the Midlands and the North.	<a href="#">Report published on 19 July.</a> <a href="#">Click here for summary.</a>

## Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee [click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
No current inquiries relevant to NCW		

## Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

[click here](#)

Inquiries of potential interest to NCW	Description	Status
Plastic waste	The government has set a target of eliminating avoidable plastic waste by 2042 and is working towards only recyclable, compostable or reusable plastic being placed on the market by 2025. The inquiry will scrutinise the government's ambition and whether current measures (plastic packaging tax, deposit return scheme and banning some single use plastics go far enough and how alternatives can be identified and supported	Most recent oral evidence session 10 May 2022. <a href="#">Link to evidence.</a>



## Details of Select Committees

Membership and contact details of Select Committees can be found by [clicking here](#) or the Committee Office, House of Commons, Palace of Westminster, SW1A 0AA

### **Women and Equalities Committee: Chaired by Rt Hon Caroline Noakes MP (Con)**

Email: [womeqcom@parliament.uk](mailto:womeqcom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 5113

### **Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Chaired by Julian Knight MP (Con)**

Email: [cmscom@parliament.uk](mailto:cmscom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 6188

### **Education Committee: Chaired by Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP (Con)**

Email: [educom@parliament.uk](mailto:educom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 2370

### **Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Chaired by Neil Parish MP (Con)**

Email: [efracom@parliament.uk](mailto:efracom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 111

### **Health and Social Care Committee: Chaired by Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP (Con)**

Email: [hscocom@parliament.uk](mailto:hscocom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 6182

### **Home Affairs Committee: Chaired by Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP (Lab)**

Email: [homeaffcom@parliament.uk](mailto:homeaffcom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 6856/3282

### **Justice: Chaired by Sir Robert Neill MP (Con)**

Email: [justicecom@parliament.uk](mailto:justicecom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 8196/1280

### **Science and Technology Committee: Chaired by Rt Hon Greg Clark MP (Con)**



**National  
Council of  
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**Transport: Chaired by Huw Merriman MP (Con)**

Email: [transcom@parliament.uk](mailto:transcom@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 6094

**Work and Pensions: Chaired by Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (Con)**

Email: [workpen@parliament.uk](mailto:workpen@parliament.uk) Phone: 020 7219 8976