Mentions of Oxford and Oxbridge in Parliament

Date: October 16

- Oral Question citing Oxford Food Bank research
- Lords debate on Brexit mentioning impact on Oxford University
- Lords debate on Grammar Schools
- Lords short debate on anti-Semitism
- Commons QWA on university research on Brexit
- Commons QWA on visa refusals (2 questions)
- Lords QWA on visa acceptances

Commons

Research
Abrahams, D - Equalities Office - Support for sick and disabled people
Thu, 27 October 2016 | House of Commons - Oral Question

Disabled people are twice as likely to live in poverty as a result of their condition, and the situation has been made worse by this Government’s £28 billion social security cuts, which have affected 3.7 million disabled people since 2012. Sick and disabled people are also more likely to be hit by social security sanctions and forced to use food banks, as the film “I, Daniel Blake” so poignantly showed. Today’s report by Oxford University proves the link between the Government’s punitive sanctions and the rise in food bank use. What action are the Minister and her DWP colleagues taking to tackle these injustices, as the Prime Minister calls them?

Education
Access and Influence
Other

Lords
Research

Peers debate Brexit: Impact on Universities and Scientific Research
Thu, 3 November 2016 | Debate - Adjournment and General
Lord Soley (opening)

..........Oxford University gets 12% of its total research budget from the European Union. There are six pan-European infrastructure projects located in the United Kingdom, and two of them—one at
Harwell run by Oxford University on laser energy and the other on biology at Oxford University—are profoundly important. Can the Minister look at how we will continue to develop them if we are no longer part of the European Union? They are part of this pan-European project. As I say, there are six of them in this country, and they would need to continue as well if we want to maintain our scientific lead………

**Education**

**Lords debate proposals to extend Grammar Schools**

Thu, 13 October 2016 | Debate - Adjournment and General

View item on DeHavilland | Source

**SUMMARY**

Lord Knight of Weymouth (Lab)

……Twenty years on, my professional parents could afford to buy me and my brother the privilege of going private. We went to an independent school specialising in getting boys into Oxbridge. As a result, we were the first in our family to go to university. We were implicitly promised that if we worked hard, did well in our exams and got a good degree from a great university, we would want for nothing. We could choose our career, get a job for life, join a final salary pension scheme, get a 25-year mortgage and retire in our 50s. That promise is over. I am on my fifth career but maybe as a Peer I have the ultimate job for life. For my children, longevity and technology have changed the game, yet we still have a schooling system designed around that promise.

**Access and Influence**

**Other**

**Question for Short Debate**

Thu 27th October 2016 Asked by Baroness Deech

To ask Her Majesty’s Government what steps they propose to take to combat anti-Semitism, in particular in universities.

**Lord Sacks**

….Sadly, that is what some universities in this country have become today. I speak from personal experience.

I was Chief Rabbi for 22 years and during that time I was under constant security protection, but only once in all those years did I feel genuinely afraid. That was when I gave a talk to students at Oxford University. Just before the start of my lecture, a whole group of rather menacing Muslim students came in and occupied the centre of the front row. It was a blatant attempt at intimidation. Luckily, my capacity to be boring at length saved the day and after half an hour they left, but that is increasingly what Jewish students, and indeed Jewish university chaplains, are facing.
The following question was tabled on 10 October 2016 to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**CONTENTS**

Asked by **Catherine West** (Hornsey and Wood Green) To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has commissioned any studies in 2016 from (a) LSE, (b) UCL, (c) King’s College London, (d) University of Cambridge and (e) University of Oxford on the UK leaving the EU.

**SUMMARY**

The following question was tabled on 18 October 2016 to the Home Office

**CONTENTS**

Asked by **Diana Johnson** (Kingston upon Hull North) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 October 2016 to Question 48003, if she will publish the visa refusal rates for (a) Cambridge University, (b) Oxford University, (c) Bath University, (d) Imperial College London, (e) Edinburgh University, (f) Glasgow University, (g) University of St Andrews and (h) Aberdeen University in each year since 2010.

**Answered by:**

**Mr Robert Goodwill** Answered on: 21 October 2016

The Home Office has indicated that it will not be possible to answer this question within the usual time period. An answer is being prepared and will be provided as soon as it is available.

**CONTENTS**

Asked by **Ian Murray** (Kingston upon Hull North) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 October 2016 to Question 48003, if she will publish the visa refusal rates for (a) Cambridge University, (b) Oxford University, (c) Bath University, (d) Imperial College London, (e) Edinburgh University, (f) Glasgow University, (g) University of St Andrews and (h) Aberdeen University in each year since 2010.

**Answered by:**

**Mr Robert Goodwill** Answered on: 26 October 2016 Holding answer received on 21 October 2016

Visa refusal rate data is produced for internal use only and is not intended for publication. The data requested provides sensitive information about sponsors’ compliance with their immigration requirements and by extension how likely they are to retain their sponsor licence.

As this information could potentially impact their reputation and ability to attract international students, and therefore their commercial viability, we are unable to provide the information requested on the basis of commercial confidentiality.

**Questions for Written Answer (Lords)**

**SUMMARY**
The following question to the Home Office was answered on 22 September 2016

CONTENTS

Asked by Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale on: 12 September 2016 Home Office Visas: Overseas Students Lords HL1783 To ask Her Majesty’s Government what percentage of visa applications involving the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, and Imperial College London, were successful in each of the last three years.

Baroness Williams of Trafford Answered on: 22 September 2016

Visa refusal rate data is produced for internal use only and is not intended for publication.

The data requested provides sensitive information about sponsors’ compliance with their immigration requirements and by extension how likely they are to retain their sponsor licence. As this information could potentially impact their reputation and ability to attract international students, and therefore their commercial viability, we are unable to provide the information requested on the basis of commercial confidentiality.