

The Prime Minister was asked—

Engagements

Q1. [157101] **Rushanara Ali (Bethnal Green and Bow) (Lab):** If he will list his official engagements for Wednesday 5 June.

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): This morning, I had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in this House, I shall have further such meetings later today.

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Rushanara Ali: Three years ago, the Prime Minister promised that borrowing would fall to £. Wbillion in c?. vQj ill he Lonfirm that the failure to get growth going means that he will now borrow £DB billion instead—yes or nox

The Prime Minister: Three years ago, we said that we would Lut the defilLit and we hake Lut the defilLit by a third—that is what has happenedQ(n the sub)eLt of what people said a few years ago, the kery first time the Leader of the (pposition Lame to that GispatLh Fo/, he attalHed me for taHng Lhild benefit away from higher earners, yet today we learn it is now Labour’s offiLial poliLy to taH Lhild benefit away from higher earners—total and utter LonfusionOPerhaps he Lan e/plain himself when he gets to his feetO

Mr Gouglas Carswell EClaltonNEConM qam thrilled and delighted that the Kokernment hake rekiked plans for a right of reLallOqinstead of a proposal that would mean politiLians sitting in)udgment on politiLians, Lan my right honOSriend maHè it Llear that a reLall melLhanism will inLLude a reLall ballot—a yes-no LhanLe for Lonstituents to maHè the final deLision before an MP is remokedx

The Prime Minister: Sirst, let me say that qHhow that my honOSriend has Lampaigned long

and hard on issues of direct democracy and has considerable expertise in such matters. I think that the right approach, and the one we put forward before, is to say yes, of course there should be a constituent mechanism, but before that, there ought to be an act of censure by a Committee of this House for wrongdoing. I think that is the right approach. How we will not necessarily agree on this, but we will make our proposals.

(In the subject of recall, I hope the Leader of the Opposition will recall his attachment to child benefit when he gets to his feet.)

Edward Miliband: Gordon Brown. Two years ago, during the Prime Minister's listening exercise on the health service, he said:

“I refuse to go back to the days when people had to wait for hours on end to be seen in A and U... so let me be absolutely clear—we won't.”

What has gone wrong?

The Prime Minister: Not a word about what the right hon. Gentleman said two years ago, the very first time he stood at that Dispatch Box, totally condemning and attaching in the strongest possible terms what now turns out to be Labour policy. What complete confusion and weakness from the Leader of the Opposition.

The right hon. Gentleman asks about accident and emergency and will deal with the question very directly. The fact that people need to know is that we are now meeting our targets for accident and emergency. There was a problem in the first quarter of this year, which is why Frances Quigley, the medical director of the NHS, is to hold an investigation, but

the real fault is this: 1.5 million more people are waiting into our accident and emergency units every year than were doing so three years ago. We must work hard to get waiting times down and keep them down, but we will not do it by following Labour's policy of cutting the size of the NHS.

Edward Miliband: I have a simple answer from an outgoing Prime Minister. The independent King's Fund says that the number of people waiting more than

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four hours in A and E is higher than at any time for nine years. Can he explain to the country why A and E waiting times fell under Labour and have gone up on his watch?

The Prime Minister: The fault is we are now meeting our targets on A and E but the right hon. Gentleman has to answer this question. In England, where the Government are responsible, we are meeting our waiting times. In Wales, where Labour is responsible, it is not meeting its waiting times. Perhaps he can tell us, when he gets to his feet, the last year in which the Welsh met their waiting times under a Labour Government.

Edward Miliband: The Prime Minister may have had six weeks away, but he has got no better at answering the question. We have got to do better than this on the A and E crisis. The College of Emergency Medicine says there is "gridlock" in emergency departments, the Patients Association says that we are "reaching crisis point", and we have a Prime Minister who says, "Crisis is not good enough". As well as the nine-year high, the

number of people held in the balance of ambulances has doubled since he took office. The number of people waiting on trolleys for more than four hours has doubled, and there are now more cancelled operations than for a decade. Does not the scale of those problems show that, on his watch, there is a crisis in A and U?

The Prime Minister: The answer to the question is that the last time Labour met its targets in hospital and emergency was 2004. It has not met a target for four years, under Labour. Under this Government, we are meeting targets. The right hon. Gentleman asks what is happening in our national health service. Let me tell him what is happening in our national health service. Under this Government, inpatient waiting times are lower than at the election, outpatient waiting times are lower than at the election, and the rate of hospital-acquired infections is at a record low. In the number of missed wards, they have almost been abolished under this Government. There are 67,000 more operations being carried out every year and, locally, there are 2,000 more doctors. Let me tell him what would happen if we followed Labour's spending plans on the NHS; [—there are new figures out today. There would be 67,000 fewer nurses and 2,000 fewer doctors. He decided, because we value the NHS, to spend more. That man there, the right hon. Member for Ipswich, Andy Furnham, said it was "irresponsible." He is wrong.

Edward Miliband: There are people all round this country waiting for hours and hours in A and U and all they see is a complacent, out-of-touch Prime Minister reading out a list of statistics not about A and U. People want to know about the crisis in A and U happening on his watch. Now let us talk about the causes of this. Over the Government's first two years in

office, more than a quarter of z ; [walH]in Lentres were closedOf you lose z ; [walH]in Lentres, you pile pressure on A and U departmentsThat is obvious to everyone elseWhy is it not obvious to himx

The Prime Minister: The right honO Gentleman wants to talH about the causes of the problems in A and UqalLept that in the first quarter of the year, there were problems, and we need to get to grips with themQ ne of

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the problems is the KPs' LontraLt that was signed by the last Labour GovernmentThey signed a LontraLt that basically let KPs get out of out]of]hoursOf he wants evidence of that, perhaps he will listen to the Labour Minister for the z ; [at the timeO Fortunately, he lost his seat in z orth j arwiLHhire to a Conserkatike, but this is what he says:

“q many ways, KPs got the best deal they ever had from that c??6 LontraLt and since then we have, in a sense, been reLokeringO

That is what happenedO There are a million more people coming through our doorsO There has been an excellent performance by doctors and nurses, but they were let down by the last Labour GovernmentO

Edward Miliband: The Prime Minister has been peddling this line about the KP LontraLt for some months now, but let us just understand thisQ hat happened to A and U waits between c??6 and c?. ?x They fell dramaticallyO That was after the KP LontraLtO Clare Kerada, the

president of the Royal College of General Practitioners, is absolutely clear he said:

“It is a pity to blame the 66 GP Consultants. They’re blaming a Consultant that’s nearly 70

years old for an issue that’s become a problem recently.”

That is the reality about the GP Consultants.

Now let us turn to a problem that even the Prime Minister cannot deny. The Chief Executive

of the NHS Confederation recently said that these A and U

“pressures have been compounded by three years of... structural reforms.”

In other words, the top-down reorganisation that nobody wanted and nobody voted for.

Why does the Prime Minister not admit what everyone in the health service knows—that

that top-down reorganisation diverted resources away from patient care and betrayed the

NHS?

The Prime Minister: What the right hon. Gentleman has to realise is that I am not peddling

a line about the GP Consultants—I am quoting the Labour Minister responsible for this, who

pointed out that this was part of the problem. Of people want to know what went wrong with

the NHS? Under Labour they have only to look at the Mid Staffordshire hospital. Of they want

to know what is going wrong with the NHS? Under Labour now they need only look at Wales,

where they have not met any of their targets, and where they cut the NHS. By 2010 that is the

effect of Labour in Wales.

The right hon. Gentleman talks about reorganisation. The fact is, we have been slashing

bureaucracy and putting that money into the front line. That is why there are 10,000 fewer

administrative staff, but there are almost 20,000 more doctors. That is what the Government have a record on—he would cut the size of the NHS.

Edward Miliband: Everyone will see a Prime Minister who cannot defend what is happening on his watch—that is the reality. Patients waiting on trolleys, operations cancelled, a crisis in A and E, history repeating itself. The NHS is not safe in their hands.

The Prime Minister: It is under this Government that the number of doctors has gone up, the number of operations is up, waiting times are down, waiting lists are down—that is what is happening under this Government. It is not interesting that in the week that was meant to be all about Labour's economic relaunch

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they cannot talk about their economic policy. They told us that they wanted to keep winter fuel payments, now they want to scrap winter fuel payments. They told us that they wanted to keep child benefit, now they want to scrap child benefit. They told us that they were going to be men of iron discipline, yet they said:

“Go and think the last Labour government was profligate, spent too much, had too much national debt, so, don't think there's any evidence for that.”

(In the economy, they are weak and divided, and they are the same old Labour.)

. v. Mrs Ueonor Iaing Epping Sorest. The people of Epping Sorest want to have a referendum on our relationship with the European Union. Goes my right hon.

Friend welcome the private Member's Bill introduced by our hon. Friend the Member for [to] [outh James] [arton] which would require a referendum by 2017. I will be enthusiastically encourage members on both sides of the House to vote for it when it is debated on 7 July.

The Prime Minister: I certainly welcome the private Member's Bill introduced by my hon. Friend the Member for [to] [outh James] [arton]. Nothing that it is absolutely right to hold that in-out referendum before the end of 2017. The interesting thing about today's newspapers is that we read that half the members of the shadow Cabinet now want a referendum too. And up, who wants a referendum? Come on, don't be shy—why do you not want to let the people choose? Ah, the people's party does not trust the people.

Mr. Jonathan Edwards (Carmarthen East and Gwent) said that her greatest achievement was new Labour's commitment to Tory spending plans, is the Prime Minister's greatest achievement.

The Prime Minister: I hope I can do a bit better than that.

Mr. Julian Lewis (New Forest East) will the Prime Minister confirm that he will recall Parliament before any action is taken to arm the Syrian opposition during the process.

The Prime Minister: I have never been someone who wants to stand against the House making a say on any of these issues, and I have always been early on making sure that Parliament is recalled to discuss important issues. Let me stress, as I did on Monday, that no decision has been taken to arm the rebels, so I do not think that this issue arises. However, as

q said, q supported holding the kote on qa%Oq my premiership, on the issue of Libya, q
reLalled the ; ouse as soon as qpossibly Loud and allowed the ; ouse to hake a koteOAs q
said, this issue does not arise at present beLause we hake made no deLision to arm the
rebelsO

70. vZ. ?7 Robert Slello [toHe]on]Trent [outhNE abM et again we hake no answers
from the Prime Minister, who blames ekeryone but himself and denies that there is a Lrisis in
A and UQ et me gike him one more LhanLe to try to gike an answerQ hy does he not admit
what ekeryone in the health serkiLe Hhows—his £7 billion reorganisation has dikerted
attention and resourLes from patient Lare and he has betrayed his promisesx May we now
hake an answerx

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The Prime Minister: The abolition of the bureauLraLy that this Kokerment hake brought
about will put billions of pounds e/tra into the z ; [, but the point that the honOKentleman
has to taHe on is that this Kokerment made a deLision, whiLh was not to Lut the z ; [Q e
are putting £. cQ billion e/tra into the z ; [OThat deLision was desLribed as irresponsible by
his own shadow [eLretary of [tateOq Labour were in power, it would be Lutting the z ; [O
; ow do we Hhow thatx FeLause that is e/aLtlly what it is doing in j ales, where it Lut the z ; [
by VQ OThe honOKentleman may not liHe his own poliLy, but that is what it isO

60. vZ. ?6 Charlie UphiLHe EGokerNEConN Feyond those on Lhild benefit, has the Prime
Minister reLeiked any Lonsistent representations on welfare reform from the (ppositionx

The Prime Minister: How that have been the one on holiday in Philadelphia, but the Opposition have been the ones taking—how can you put it—policy altering substance. Last week they were in favour of child benefit. Now they are against child benefit. They were in favour of winter fuel allowance. Now they want to abolish winter fuel allowance. Only this morning we find out that they may not go ahead with this policy of slapping child benefit. In the truth is that the leader of the Opposition is allowed to make coffee for the shadow Chancellor, but he cannot tell him what the policy is.

Mr. Catherine Munnell: Elizabeth Lastle upon Tyne: Northumbria. Will the Prime Minister assure the House that the prospective Bill on lobbying will include a ban on people paying £1,000 to dine in Downing Street?

The Prime Minister: What the Bill on lobbying will do is introduce a register for lobbyists, which has been promised and should be delivered. What the Bill on lobbying will also do is make sure that we look at the impact of all third parties, including the trade unions, on our politics.

Mr. Gerald Dunsford: Aldershot. Does my right hon. friend agree that the actions of the European Court of Human Rights in seeking to frustrate the will of the British people to rid ourselves of terrorists illustrate the extent to which that Court has betrayed its original principles? Will he update the House on what actions he proposes the Government will take; as he read the comments of the president of that Court, who said that if we were to secede, it would put our credibility in doubt? In fact, it is the credibility of the Court that is in doubt because of the way it is treating the British people and this Parliament.

The Prime Minister: I completely understand and share much of my hon. Friend's frustration. We should remember that Britain helped to found the European Court of Human Rights and it has played an important role in making sure that Europe never again suffered the abuses that we saw in the first half of the 20th Century, but 67 years on it is clear that that Court needs reform. My right hon. Friend the Member for Rushcliffe, Mr Clarke, the former Justice Secretary and now Minister without Portfolio, led that process of reform and we have achieved some changes, but it is

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Quite clear to me that we need further changes and we need the Court to focus on real human rights abuses, not on overruling Parliaments.

BO. VZ. ? B Chi (nwurah Ez ewLastle upon Tyne CentralNE abN The north]east has renewable energy industries ready to invest, but they need certainty. Yesterday MPs from all parts of the House voted for a decarbonisation target. Given that the Prime Minister's majority was slashed to just 17, will he show some leadership, thin again and balance British industry and green jobs?

The Prime Minister: I understand completely the point that the hon. Lady makes and I agree that businesses need certainty. That is why we have given them the certainty of a leaky control framework of over £2 billion. That is why we have given them the certainty that if they sign contracts now, they get the renewables obligation for 27 years. We have given them the certainty of a green investment bank, but does it make sense to fix a

deCarbonisation target now, before we have agreed the Carbon budget and before we even know whether Carbon Capture and storage works properly or does not work and the businesses that want to say that it is not their priority.

Mr Adrian [anders E Torbay NE GN People Lonkilted of sex/ offences against children are supposed to face a prison sentence. Will the Prime Minister retire judges who fail to imprison Lonkilted paedophiles?

The Prime Minister: There is obviously in our country a very important separation of powers, and politicians are not allowed to comment on individual judges, although sometimes we might like to say we should not—it would be a very dangerous road down which to go—but we have clear laws in this country about how serious Parliament thinks offences are, and judges should pay heed to those laws.

Mr John [ood LoLH Farrow and Surness NE ab-Co] opN qam going to give the Prime Minister another chance to answer on whether he seriously plans to give a parliamentary committee the right to block the public's chance to vote on recalling a Lonkilted MP?

The Prime Minister: That is not the thing. Of course we want a process whereby constituents, through a petition, can call for the recall of their MP. But because the main way that we throw MPs out of Parliament is at an election, there should be a clause for the recall to take place. That is why we have a Standards and Privileges Committee. That is why it now has outside members and why it has the power to suspend Members of Parliament and to expel them. I believe, but we can debate and discuss this across the House, that before we

trigger a reLall there should be some sort of Lensure by the ; ouse of Commons to akoid ke/atious attempts to get rid of Members of Parliament who are doing a perfeLtly reasonable jobO

W . vZ . ?W Mr John Faron EFasildon and FilleriLayN EConN [ome of us on the Kokernment FenLhes belieke that Kokernment plans to replaLe c?,??? regulars, inLluding the cnd Fattalion the Royal Regiment of Suseliers, with 7?,??? reserkists will proke a false

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eLonomyOThe present Territorial Army mobilisation rate of 6?8 suggests instead that we need v?,??? reserkists, and finanLial inLentikes will mean that an e/]regular reserkist will be on a better slale of pay than a serking brigadierOKiken that we hake already raised this matter with the [eLretary of [tate, and further to our letter to the Prime Minister on D April, will my right honOriend meet us to disLuss this and other LonLerns, inLluding the wisdom of this poliLy in this inLreasingly unLertain worldx

The Prime Minister: qam always happy to meet my honOriend and disLuss these and other issuesOq the spending rekiew, we produLed £. 0 billion to prokide the uplift for the Territorial Army that it re%uiresOqam absolutely LonkinLed that it is right to hake a different balanLe between regulars and reserkes, as other Lountries hake done, but obkiously it is absolutely kital that we get that new reLruitment of our reserke forLesOThat is why the money is thereO

(n the wider issues of defenLe that qHow my hon friend Lares about, we will hake some of the best e%uipped forLes anywhere in the worldQj e will hake the new airLraft Larriers for our z ak, the hunter Hller submarines, the)oint striH fighter and the e/Lellent Typhoon airLraft, and the A6??M will soon be Loming into serkiLeQ ur troops in Afghanistan now say that they are better e%uipped, better proteLted and better prokided for than they hake eker been in our historyO

DO . vZ ?D MarH GurHan ESoyleNE GIPN The Prime Minister's pledge to lead against hunger at the KWand in the 4z is wellLomeQj ill it also e/tend to U4 negotiations on the future of the misdireLted . ?8 direLtike on biofuels, whiLh basiLally burns as fuel for Uurope what should be food for the poorx Goes the Prime Minister reLognise that that mandate is driking land grabs and rising food priLes, Lompounding hunger and adding to Larbon emissionsx

The Prime Minister: qam delighted that we are bringing the KWto z orthern qelandQjhope that it will prokide a boost for the z orthern qish eLonomy, and we Lan disLuss some of these issues at that meetingOq agree that we should not allow the produLtion of biofuels to undermine food seLurityQj e want to go further than the Uuropean Commission's proposed Lap of v8 on Lrop]based biofuels, so there is Lonsiderable merit in what the honCKentleman saysO

Gr Thèrèse Coffey EuffolH CoastalN EConN The weeHend before last, there was a Lommunity swim off the Loast of [outhwold, whiLh Lould hake beLome a tragedy were it not for the brake efforts of our emergenLy serkiLes, and in partiLular the kolunteer Loastguards

and the Royal z ational I ifeboat qstitutionG ill my right honOSriend)oin me in thanHng our kolunteer Loastguards, in partiLular helmsman Paul Callaghan and Lewmen Paul FarHer and Rob Qelkey, for pulling vB people from the water and akerting a tragedyx

The Prime Minister: qCertainly)oin my honOSriend in thatOThe Royal z ational I ifeboat Assoliation does an e/traordinary)ob for our LountryOq is really one of our emergenLy serkiLes and should be treated as suLhOMy honOSriend is absolutely right to raise this Lase, and q)oin her in paying tribute to those brake peopleO

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. ?O. vZ. . ? Ann MLQeLhin BKlasgow z orthNE abN qwonder whether the Prime Minister Lan assist me with a %uestion that the Treasury has been unable to answer for the past two monthsOj ill Fritish ta/payers' money be used to guarantee the mortgages of foreign Liti! ens who buy property herex

The Prime Minister: The ChanLellor will set out details of this in the announLements that he plans to maHeO *qinterruptionO*

Mr [peaHer: (rderOqwant to hear Mr Gakies, the koiLe of [hipleyQ et us hear himO

. . O. vZ. . . Philip Gakies E hipleyNEConN qreLently kisited my brother in hospital in GonLaster only to find that using the telekision stationed aboke his bed would Lost him £B a dayOCan the Prime Minister)ustify why it Losts hospital patients £6c a weeH to watLh the telekision when it Losts prisoners only £. a weeHto do sox q he Lannot)ustify it, Lan he tell us what he is going to do about itx

The Prime Minister: As someone who has spent a lot of time in hospitals, I absolutely share my hon. friend's frustrations. It was the last Conservative Government who introduced these charges on televisions in hospital in the year 2000. I have spent many an hour battling with that very complicated telephone and credit card system that people have to try and make work. I am afraid, though, that these are deplorable decisions that local hospitals can now make for themselves.

On terms of prisons, my right hon. friend the Lord Chancellor is doing something. He is taking the unacceptable situation that he inherited from the Labour party, whereby people would take out a daily subscription when they were in prison, and saying that they cannot do that any more. He is also making sure that prisoners pay if they use the television.

Mr. Ufyn I lwyd e gwyrfor Meirionnydd NEPCN The Justice Secretary's slashing of the legal aid budget is inevitably going to lead to equality of access being the elusive preserve of the rich and the privileged. This by design or accident.

The Prime Minister: First, everyone in the House has to recognise that we need to grapple with the legal aid bill. When the Labour party, in its manifesto at the last election, said that it was going to look at the cost of legal aid, the fact is that we spend £70 per head of the population, whereas New Zealand, for instance, with its common law system, spends £10 per head.

The total cost to the taxpayer of the top three criminal cases in 2000-01 was £100 million. At a time when we are having to make difficult spending decisions, it is absolutely right to look at legal aid. We put out a consultation and the responses have now been received. We can

Consider those responses carefully, but we need to make reductions in legal aid

. 70. vZ . 7 Jeremy Iefroy MP Staffordshire A loan of £1.5m from the regional growth fund through the mutual Finance Country Reinvestment Society, of which I am a member, has helped create 10 jobs in just six months in manufacturing start-up Iordswood

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Arrived in Stafford with the manufacturing purchasing managers index at a 6-month high, I encourage my right hon. friend in his determination to restore the 4Q as a manufacturing powerhouse

The Prime Minister: I am grateful for my hon. friend's question. There has been some more welcome news about the economy continuing to heal. We saw the services figures out today, the construction figures out yesterday and the growth figures in the economy. We are making progress, but we have to stick to the plan and the difficult decisions that we are taking and avoid the complete chaos and confusion being offered by the Labour party.

. 70. vZ . 7 Fridge Phillipson MP oughton and I understand I thought. How that before the election, the Prime Minister said that there would be no more top-down reorganisations in the NHS; and that he later went on to say that he would not lose control of waiting times in A and U departments. Why does he keep making promises that he just cannot keep?

The Prime Minister: What we promised was that we would not cut the NHS; we would put

extra money in Q we are putting in £. 6 billion extra Q let me say it one more time: Labour's official policy is to cut the size; [O They said that our policy—

Andy Furnham *Eighteen abridged dissent*

The Prime Minister: (h, it's not that has changed as well; j we have got a new health policy; honestly, there are so many 4] turns, they should be making a grand priority

Martin; orwood Cheltenham NE GN A and U staff shortages do not develop in just three years; Q ill the Prime Minister look into why the downgrade of Cheltenham A and U is going ahead without the outcome of the public consultation being considered in public by either the clinical commissioning group or the health and wellbeing board

The Prime Minister: (f course, any reorganisation or reconfiguration of a hospital has to meet the tests that the health [e] regulatory framework set out, but the hon. Gentleman is right to say that there is no one, single cause of the difficulties that we faced in A and U. Clearly, . million extra patients is a huge amount over the past three years; O j we have increased the funds going into our size; [, but there are big challenges to meet. O The questions are will we meet them by cutting the size; [, which was Labour's policy; j ill we meet them by another reorganisation, which is Labour's policy; z o, we will not. O j we will deal with this problem by making sure that we manage the size; [effectively, and continuing to put the money in.

. 60 . v. 6 Mr Tom; aris Glasgow [outh NE abN j as it when a journalist, masquerading as a lobbyist, entrapped a Tory MP, that the Prime Minister deluded it was

time to launch an all-out attack on the trade unions

The Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman conveniently forgets to mention the Labour peers

who do have a problem in Parliament with the influence of third parties, and we need to deal with that. Clearly, all-party

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parliamentary groups, which are a matter for the House and for Mr Speaker, need to be looked at. As we promised in the Coalition agreement, we will be bringing forward a lobbying register, and also some measures to make sure that the trade unions behave properly too.

Mr Bernard Jenkin: I am with and I thank the hon. Member for his commendation of my right hon. Friend's strong, unambiguous support for the continuation of the British nuclear deterrent. I know that the alternatives to Trident study has concluded that there are no alternatives cheaper or more effective than Trident, what are the reasons for delaying a main gate decision so that the matter can be settled in this Parliament?

The Prime Minister: I have set out clearly the steps that need to be taken before the main gate decision is made, but my hon. Friend knows that I am strongly committed to the renewal of our deterrent on a like-for-like basis. I think that that is right for Britain. Obviously, in the Coalition a study has been carried out. My view is very clear, and I looked at the evidence again on becoming Prime Minister. I believe that if we want to have a credible

deterrent, we need that continuous at-sea posture, and a submarine-based deterrent that is based not on cruise missiles but on intercontinental ballistic missiles. That is the right answer, and that is the direction that the evidence points in that direction.

Jim Gobbin of Eywood and Middleton North-East. The family of Grummer Lee Rigby like on the Langley estate in my constituency visited the parents last week and they were very appreciative of everything that has been said in support of the family, particularly by the local estate residents. A memorial service was held in the town centre and was greatly attended, and local Middleton people were able to pay their respects. Will the Prime Minister join me in commending the people of Middleton for their very strong but sensitive support for the family during this very sad time?

The Prime Minister: Certainly. I join the hon. Gentleman in what he says about the people of Middleton and the great respect, support and solidarity they have shown for the family of Lee Rigby. His death was an absolute tragedy and there are many lessons we must learn from it, as we discussed in the House on Monday. That is another moment for everyone in this House, and this country, to reflect again on the magnificent services that the men and women of our armed forces give to our country.

Mr. Speaker: Last but not least, Mr. Julian; uppert.

Mr. Julian; uppert. Cambridge North-East. Today my hon. friend the Member for Bristol East Stephen Williams was awarded a World Health Organisation medal to mark his work on tobacco. Will the Prime Minister congratulate him on that great achievement and his work on that issue, and support his campaign for the plain packaging of cigarettes?

The Prime Minister: I am afraid I missed the beginning of the question, so I did not quite hear who got the medal— *interruption* (oh, the hon. Gentleman gave a magnificent introduction to the Queen's Speech, and I commend him for his medal. In the policy, we know that issue.