

# Mentions of Oxford and Oxbridge in Parliament

**Date: February 17**

- Commons Debate: Research mention
- Commons Backbench Business Committee: Research mention
- Commons Select Committee: Research mention
- Commons debate: Research mention
- Commons debate: University representation on FA
- Commons debate: Oxford Cambridge corridor
- Commons debate: Involvement in ivory trade
- Commons debate: VC views on Prevent
- Lords Bill committee stage: Research mention
- Lords Bill report stage: Mention of Sir John Bell
- Lords Bill Second Reading: Mention of Adlens

## Commons Research

### MPs debate Council Funding and Social Care

Wed, 22 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

#### Alan Johnson (Lab)

...an ageing society where demand is bound to continue to rise. In the past week alone, while Parliament has been in recess, Age UK has said that the system is moving from crisis to collapse. A report by **Oxford University** and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine concluded that problems in adult social care are behind an unprecedented increase in mortality. If we look at the statistics we see that mortali...

### Backbench Business Committee - Meeting of Backbench Business Committee

Tue, 21 February 2017

Q1 Chair: I welcome colleagues to the Backbench Business Committee. Unfortunately, the Chair, Ian Mearns, is still not well, so we send him a message of “Get well soon”. He is suffering from a prolapsed disc. The doctor present will know immediately how painful that is, so we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Taking people in the order in which we have them on our paper, I ask Byron Davies to come forward and make his application.

Byron Davies: Thank you very much, Chair. I am grateful to have the opportunity to ask for this extremely important debate. Of course, the beer industry, the pub industry, affects every single constituency and every part of the United Kingdom. That is reflected by the fact that here in Parliament we have two all-party parliamentary groups—one on beer and the other on saving the pub—and they are among the biggest groups in Parliament. There is great interest across the parties here in Parliament.

The beer and pub industry has a huge impact on the UK economy. It is worth something in the region of £23 billion in gross value added and is, of course, of massive importance to the Treasury in terms of tax take, but in particular, and more importantly, in terms of jobs and the wider UK economy through the connected supply chain.

The industry is of course vital to many and varied aspects of British society. It is vital to our rural communities, as I know only too well, representing a very rural south-west Wales constituency. It is very much the case that it creates community cohesion. There is a very interesting **Oxford University** report on its importance in tackling loneliness as well. As an example of its diversity and importance, the Pub is The Hub organisation says that the pub now supports a huge range of community services, from adult education classes through to broadband and to local shops, post offices and so on in the community.

## **Culture, Media and Sport Committee - UKInbound, British Hospitality Association, VisitBritain - Impact of Brexit on the creative industries, tourism and the digital single market**

Tue, 21 February 2017 |

**Ufi Ibrahim:**

In the meantime, if we look at the estimates, for example of the **Migration Observatory** at **Oxford University**, which put the volume of EU migrant workers in our industry at 15%, and extrapolate that back to the 4.5 million people employed in hospitality and tourism, that gives you a figure of around 700,000 people. We think that is very conservative as a number, particularly in areas such as London and the south-east, where the percentage jumps to in excess of 40% as an average. Nevertheless, if we take that 700,000 number of individuals, which is a very big number, we would very much like to see the Government give them an assurance that after article 50 has been triggered their position in the United Kingdom would be secure. It is a huge number of people.

## **MPs debate Motor Neurone Disease/Gordon Aikman**

Mon, 20 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

**Joseph Johnson (Con)**

...unds research at many leading institutes in the country, including the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, the UCL Institute of Neurology, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and the **University of Oxford**.

MRC-funded research includes projects to increase understanding of the basic molecular mechanisms underlying MND, improve the assessment of disease progression and identify biomarkers of ...

## Education

### Access and Influence

#### MPs debate Football Association Governance

Thu, 9 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

#### Clive Efford (Lab)

...out what we want to achieve.

It is not acceptable for there to be an ancient body such as the FA Council, which has representatives from the Army, Cambridge university, independent schools, **Oxford university**, the Air Force and the Royal Navy. The historic construction of this organisation clearly needs reform. I favour the Football Supporters' Federation's recommendations. We should have fans' representa...

## Other

### MPs debate the Government's Productivity Plan

Tue, 28 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

#### Richard Fuller (Bedford) (Con)

The productivity plan had another tremendous advantage, because it focused our attention not on how much we were spending, but on how quickly we were implementing the projects to which the Government were committed. One of the projects in the plan—it was subsequently raised by the National Infrastructure Commission—that was highly thought of was the **Oxford to Cambridge** corridor, to connect through Milton Keynes and Bedford, and onward to Cambridge. I am pleased that the Department for Transport has heard the message and is now coming forward with new ideas to make that happen sooner than was envisaged even at the time of the productivity plan.

I ask the Minister to pay particular attention to how procedures involving the interaction of Departments can be enhanced. I am talking about the time a proposal spends sitting in the inbox of one part of this complex system of organisations, Departments and agencies that have to approve something before it moves to the outbox and on to the next Department. This applies particularly to aspects of the road highway between **Oxford and Cambridge**, where there is an opportunity to move the timeframe forward. I would be very grateful for the opportunity to talk to the Minister or his counterparts in the Department for Transport about this.

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Richard Fuller

I would hope that the Minister would use exactly the same assessment for that project as he would for any other. We have to build an economy that works for everyone. We have the tools at our disposal to do that, and it would be good to see the Scottish Government using some of the tools at their disposal to do something productive about their own economy, rather than complaining all the time and blaming others, as the hon. Gentleman has just done.

Let me respond to the challenge from the hon. Gentleman. If the Minister believes, as seems to be the case on the basis of what the National Infrastructure Commission has said, that the corridor between **Oxford and Cambridge** is important, he has a responsibility under the principles of the productivity plan to implement the relevant initiatives, plans and

investments as quickly and effectively as possible, and to set a new benchmark for the speed of implementation.

### **MPs debate Domestic Ivory Market**

Mon, 6 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

#### **Owen Paterson (Lab)**

...bjects, which were described as “cow bone carvings”, should be carbon dated. I cannot tell the hon. Gentleman how many objects there were, but the total cost was £1,134. I have also picked up that the **University of Oxford** does a cheap deal on a single item for £500. He rightly keeps mentioning that issue, and I think there is merit in it.

I am looking at a near comprehensive ban. With respect to my near off...

### **MPs debate implementation of the Prevent Strategy**

Wed, 1 February 2017 | Debate - Adjournment and General

#### **Naz Shah (Lab)**

...cester East (Keith Vaz) will also give his version of events.

Headlines about Prevent have included “Prevent will have a chilling effect on open debate, free speech and political dissent”; “**Oxford University** vice-chancellor says Prevent strategy ‘wrong-headed’”; “Instead of fighting terror, Prevent is creating a climate of fear”; and “Human rights group condemns Prevent anti-radicalisation strategy”. It ...

### **Commons Second Reading - European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill**

Tue, 31 January 2017 | Second Reading Debate

#### **Chris Philp (Croydon South) (Con)**

I received an email yesterday from Professor John Wheeler, the head of physics at **Oxford University**, who had the very dubious pleasure of being my tutor for four years in the mid-1990s. He is concerned about the implications for his fusion research programme of our leaving Euratom. Is there any way in which we could postpone leaving Euratom by a year or two, and if that is not possible, what assurance will the Secretary of State give Professor Wheeler and his colleagues?

#### **David Davis (Con)**

The first thing I would say to my hon. Friend is that there is a two-year timetable, so we are still two years out from this. The Prime Minister has also said very clearly in her industrial strategy and in her speech on Brexit that we intend to support the scientific community and to build as much support for it as we can. When we engage in negotiations after March, we will negotiate with the European Union with the aim of creating a mechanism that will allow the research to go on.

## **Lords Research**

## **Lords Committee Stage - Digital Economy Bill**

Thu, 2 February 2017 | Committee Stage Debate

...n that payments will be blocked in the event of non-compliance. My amendment would remove that uncertainty.

The need for clarity on enforcement was forcefully presented by research from the **University of Oxford** that I cited on Second Reading. The report Effective Age Verification Techniques: lessons to be learnt from the online gambling industry looked at how age verification on gambling websites had worked...

## **Education Access and Influence**

### **Other**

## **Lords Report Stage - Health Service Medical Supplies (Costs) Bill**

Tue, 7 February 2017 | Report Stage Debate

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### **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Lab)**

You then have to link the issue to our investment in R&D and life sciences. Sir John Bell, regius professor of medicine at the **University of Oxford** and chair of the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research, who is playing an absolutely pivotal role in this area, spelled this out recently. As he said, the last 30 years have witnessed an unprecedented number of major innovations in healthcare that have resulted in significant extensions in life expectancy and quality of life. The problem is that the National Health Service has been unable to adopt this new innovation effectively and, as a result, many improvements in healthcare have been put in jeopardy.

## **Lords Second Reading - Regulation of Health and Social Care Professions Etc. Bill**

Fri, 3 February 2017 | Second Reading Debate

### **Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

...tion”.

Another example is the Opticians Act, which is hugely out of date. We had a debate in your Lordships’ House a year or so ago about a UK company called Adlens, a spin-off company from **Oxford University**, which has developed flexible and adjustable reading spectacles. It is exporting millions of these from the UK to Japan and the US but up to now, it has not been allowed to market them in the UK beca...

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