Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

In the drive to tackle corruption in Afghanistan, will my rt. hon. Friend say a little more about what steps are being taken to disrupt the drugs industry, which does spread its tentacles very directly to our streets?

William Hague (Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs)

Yes, the British Government continue to give a lot of resources to counter-narcotics work - £26 million in the current financial year. We support programmes for growing alternative crops in Afghanistan. I was interested to note in Herat on Monday that saffron is being grown on a wide scale and brings a much larger income to the farmer than the growing of opium poppies. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has reported a 22% fall in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in the last year.