

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Migration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): [HCWS415] The UK and France share a special relationship. The operation of juxtaposed controls, provided for by bilateral agreements, is an essential element of our border strategy. Since the juxtaposed controls were introduced, the number of asylum claims made in the UK has decreased dramatically. Before the controls were in place, asylum claims reached over 84,000 a year, three times higher than the 26,617 claims in 2016-17. The reduction in claims we have seen has significantly reduced the impact on public services and the UK taxpayer—with every reduction by 10,000 asylum claims saving the UK at least £70 million in costs.

Juxtaposed controls play a hugely important role in protecting our national security and have significant economic value for both the UK and France—creating a smooth border and making trade more efficient. Having UK border controls based in France allows Border Force officers to check passengers and freight destined for the UK in France, ensuring we can take action against illegal migrants, those trying to smuggle people into

the UK and criminals attempting to bring illegal goods into the country, before they reach British soil.

Yesterday, we signed a supplementary agreement that demonstrates the UK and France's long-term commitment to the future of the juxtaposed controls, recognising that they are in the common interest. ...

Building on the successful co-operation of the clearance and relocation of the migrant camp in Calais in 2016, the UK and France have now agreed a comprehensive "whole of route" approach to migration. The aim is to reduce the number of migrants making the dangerous and illegal journey to northern France and manage the pressure on our shared border from those who do travel. The elements are to:

- jointly work upstream in source and transit countries to discourage migrants who do not have any lawful basis for doing so from making the dangerous journey to northern France;
- invest in strengthening our shared border through investment in port security and infrastructure and further improving operational co-operation with France; and,
- work to ensure that migrants who have travelled illegally to Northern France are able to quickly claim asylum in France so we can meet our international obligations. ...

In addition, the UK and France recognise their humanitarian responsibilities towards unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. In 2016, the UK transferred over 750 unaccompanied minors from France as part of our comprehensive support for the Calais camp clearance. We have also announced a number of further measures in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children:

France, Greece and Italy will now be able to refer unaccompanied children who arrived in Europe before 18 January 2018 to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. The Government had previously insisted on the previous eligibility date of 20 March 2016 to avoid establishing an open-ended relocation scheme from Europe, as this would increase the pull factor that puts children's lives at risk. After extensive discussion with France, Greece and Italy, we have agreed to amend the eligibility date on an exceptional basis to ensure we can transfer the circa. 260 remaining unaccompanied children and meet our obligation under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. ...

To read the full statement see

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-19/debates/18011939000005/Migration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Civil Servants: Migrant Workers

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [121914] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans his Department has to (a) collect information on the number of non-UK EU and EEA nationals working in each civil service department and (b) assess the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on civil service employment.

Reply from Oliver Dowden: The Civil Service does not routinely collect information on the nationality of civil servants and there are currently no plans to collect information on the number of non-UK EU and EEA nationals working in each Civil Service department.

The Cabinet Office will continue to work with DExEU and the Home Office to ensure that the Civil Service Nationality Rules continue to be operable as broader legislative decisions are made.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121914/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

The following four questions all received the same answer

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [122402] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social

Care, how many non-UK EU nationals were employed by the NHS in cardiology in each of the last three years.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [122403] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many non-UK EU nationals were employed by the NHS in dermatology in each of the last three years.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [122404] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many non-UK EU nationals were employed by the NHS in neurology in each of the last three years.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [122405] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many non-UK EU nationals were employed by the NHS in gynaecology in each of the last three years.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: NHS Digital publishes workforce statistics and the following table shows the numbers of non-United Kingdom European Union nationals employed by the National Health Service in the following areas; Cardiology, Dermatology, Neurology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology at September 2015 – September 2017.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Specified Staff as at 30 September each specified year (Headcount).

Group/Area (Headcount)	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17
Cardiology	1,408	1,595	1,664
Dermatology	217	229	244
Neurology	467	514	523
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	602	678	722

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-12/122402/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-12/122403/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-12/122404/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-12/122405/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [122817] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to retain EU nationals working in the NHS.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Government hugely values the contribution of all the EU27 nationals working in the National Health Service. The Prime Minister has publicly reassured all European Union citizens who have chosen to make their homes and livelihoods in the United Kingdom, that she wants them to stay. Furthermore, the agreement announced on 8 December 2017 between the UK and the EU Commission safeguarded the rights of people who have built their lives in the UK and EU, following the UK's exit from the EU. NHS Improvement is leading a programme of work to improve staff retention in trusts across England. The latest figures from NHS Digital show that there were almost 3,300 more EU nationals - including almost 500 more doctors - working in the NHS in September 2017 than before the referendum result.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122817/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Deidre Brock (SNP) [119529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much has been raised by the Immigration Health Surcharge for the NHS in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration Health Surcharge was introduced in April 2015. Income received from Immigration Health Surcharge payments since then is reported annually in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts. However, the report shows the total amount of Immigration Health income raised in any given financial year, including the amount transferred at the year end to the Consolidated Fund for Extra Receipts. It does not show how much money was spent by the Home Office on collection costs, or how much was transferred to Department of Health and the Devolved Administrations for spending on the NHS; it just shows the sum of these two items. Therefore, to report the amount of Immigration Health Surcharge income "raised for the NHS" would equate to putting new information in the public domain

The Home Office collects this fee on behalf of the Department of Health and after deducting its administration/collection costs, it transfers the balance through the Main and Supplementary Estimate exercises using the Barnett Formula. Any surplus of income received over and above the allocations made in the Main and Supplementary Estimate exercises is transferred to the Consolidated Fund for Extra Receipts at the end of the year and made available by HM Treasury to Dept Health and the Devolved Administrations for spending on the NHS in the following financial year.

In the last Immigration Health Surcharge Order debated in Parliament £140.1m was made available for the NHS in FY15/16. Figure for FY16/17 is not readily available

FY2016/17 - page 117:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf

FY2015/16 - page 134 & 135:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539638/HO_AR_16_gov.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119529/>

Overseas Students

Martyn Day (SNP) [122387] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the findings of the recent report from the Higher Education Policy Institute on the financial contribution of overseas students and staff; and if she will review the classification of students in immigration statistics as a result of those findings.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government welcomes the contribution that international students make to the UK economy. We recognise that international students enhance our educational institutions both financially and culturally; enrich the experience of domestic students; and become important ambassadors for the United Kingdom in later life. The Government has recently commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee to undertake a study into the costs and benefits of international students.

There is no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK and there are no plans to change this. So long as students are compliant with immigration rules they should make a very limited contribution to net migration numbers.

The independent Office for National Statistics is responsible for the production of the net migration statistics. In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of

residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-12/122387/>

Immigration

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [121343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the contribution to the public purse of applications for immigration after all costs to the Department are covered in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have not calculated this on anything other than a financial year basis. This information on income vs full cost is published each year in the HO annual report and accounts (see 3.2 on page 90 in the link below).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121343/>

Immigration

John Spellar (Labour) [121707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for (a) indefinite and (b) limited leave to remain were under consideration on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many of those applications had been lodged more than six months previously

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information relating to the current number of applications outstanding is management information and subject to change, However, published information on the number of applications for leave to remain in all categories, as well as data on UK Visa and Immigration performance against service standards for applications made in the UK and from overseas, and the proportion of those cases classified as non-straightforward, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>.

Where an application is defined as non-straightforward due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121707/>

Immigration

Afzal Khan (Labour) [121752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's monitoring procedures for legal compliance by private firms delivering immigration-related services.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) was established by the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to regulate the provision of immigration advice and services by those who are not practising lawyers and are therefore not regulated by another body, such as the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The OISC's powers are set out on their website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-immigration-services-commissioner>.

The OISC, which is operationally independent of the Home Office, is responsible for ensuring the organisations it regulates are fit and competent to provide immigration advice and services, and for taking appropriate action, including criminal prosecution, if organisations or individuals are found to be providing immigration advice or services illegally. The OISC do this by carrying out a robust proactive programme of risk based premises audits and operating a complaints scheme. The OISC reports quarterly to the Home Office on the regulatory scheme

and successful prosecutions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121752/>

Visas

Ian Lavery (Labour) [121876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to refund visa applicants who have paid for the online Premier Service and have not had their application processed within the quoted time-frame.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration consider all requests for refunds on a case by case basis. Whether a refund is issued will depend on the specific circumstances of each case.

Requests should be made via the complaints process:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure#how-to-complain>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121876/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Afzal Khan (Labour) [121887] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unsuccessful student visa applications have been overturned on appeal in each of the last five years; and what was the average time taken between receiving the initial application and overturning the initial rejection in that same period.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A student visa application does not have a right of appeal, instead a student can apply for an administrative review when they feel the decision is incorrect. The information pertaining to the numbers and average times of administrative reviews is not released publicly.

Information on the number of Study entry clearance visa applications and decisions (i.e. grants, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed cases) are published quarterly in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics, Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121887/>

British Nationality: EU Nationals

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [121295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals, both adults and children, have been refused citizenship in each year between 2010 and 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The available published information on the total number of decisions to refuse applications for British citizenship is published in Home Office's Immigration Statistics, July – September 2017, Citizenship tables cz_01 and cz_01_q available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#citizenship>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121295/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [121296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals have been refused the right to remain in each year between 2010 and 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An EU national's right to remain in the UK is not dependent upon a grant of leave to remain from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (SSHD). The Free Movement of Persons Directive

(2004/38/EC) allows EU nationals to reside freely in the UK whilst they satisfy the conditions laid down in the Treaty. EU nationals are not granted leave to remain in the UK. The number of EU nationals refused the right to remain between 2010 and 2017 is therefore nil.

The Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 defines how an EU national can be considered to be a qualified person. A qualified person, is a person considered to satisfy the conditions laid down in the Treaty.

EU nationals may apply to the SSHD for confirmation of their status as a qualified person.

A Registration Certificate confirms that an EU national has demonstrated that they are currently a qualified person.

A Document Certifying Permanent Residence confirms that an EU national has resided in the UK as a qualified person, for a continuous period of 5 years.

Statistics on outcomes of applications for Registration Certificates and Documents Certifying Permanent Residence for European Union (EU) nationals are published quarterly in the Immigration Statistics. These include data for certificates/documents issued, refusals and applications deemed invalid and hence rejected. The most recent edition (Immigration Statistics July to September 2017) is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#european-economic-area-eea>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121296/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [118426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the differences are between the proposed settled status for EU nationals after the UK leaves the EU and the current status of EU citizens who obtained indefinite leave to remain before the UK joined the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens and their family members who obtain settled status under the Withdrawal Agreement (WA) will be granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). This status will provide the holder with the same rights and access to benefits, education and healthcare as those who obtained it under the Immigration Rules before the UK joined the EU

In addition, the UK and the European Commission have agreed that those granted settled status under the WA will also benefit from certain more favourable entitlements including, for example, that ILR will not lapse unless the holder has been continuously absent from the UK for over five years, as opposed to two years; and more generous provisions relating to future family reunification.

Further details of the agreement with the European Commission can be found in 'Joint report on progress during phase 1 of negotiations under Article 50 TEU on the United Kingdom's orderly withdrawal from the European Union' published on 8 December 2017, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-report-on-progress-during-phase-1-of-negotiations-under-article-50-teu-on-the-uks-orderly-withdrawal-from-the-eu>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-08/118426/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [121740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2017 to Question 5358, on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether those proposals will also apply to EU-born spouses who leave the UK after the UK exits the EU having previously resided here long-term with no formalised immigration status and who then wish to re-enter the UK at a later date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK will protect EU citizens who have been exercising free movement rights in the UK at the time of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, on 29 March 2019. They will have a period of at least two years after the UK leaves the EU to apply for and secure their immigration status in UK law

Those who fall outside the scope of the Withdrawal Agreement will be subject to the post-exit immigration arrangements for EU citizens. The Government is considering a range of options for these arrangements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121740/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [122301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the residence rights of the EU family members of UK nationals who have derived those rights under Ruiz Zambrano case law are; and whether they are covered by the Phase 1 agreement with the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Until the UK leaves the European Union (EU), EU family members of UK nationals who have derived those rights under Ruiz Zambrano case law continue to have the same rights and status, and are subject to the same residence requirements under EU law, as was the case before Article 50 was triggered

The Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK will protect EU citizens who have been exercising free movement rights in the UK at the time of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, on 29 March 2019. This includes those who derive a right of residence from other instruments of EU law.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122301/>

Immigrants

Andrew Mitchell (Conservative) [121985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 December 2017 to Question 116509, what the cost of unlawful detention claims paid by the Home Office was in (a) 2011, (b) 2012, (c) 2013, (d) 2014, (e) 2015 and (f) 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: For FY 2011/12, the Home Office does not hold the information in the format requested. Our ledger will not allow us to provide this level of detail for that Financial Year

The cost of unlawful detention claims for FYs 2012/13 onwards are included in the table below: Unlawful Detention Claims Paid

Year	£m
2016/17	3.3
2015/16	4.1
2014/15	4
2013/14	4.8
2012/13	5

Figures for FYs 2013/14 to 2015/16 were provided under previous PQ UIN 47658.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121985/>

The first answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-29/116509/>

The second answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-10/47658/>

Undocumented Migrants

Afzal Khan (Labour) [121760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to collect data on the (a) ethnicity, (b) race and (c) religion of people recorded as encountered in immigration enforcement operations.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has no plans to routinely collect data on the ethnicity, race or religion of people encountered on Immigration Enforcement operations. This data is not recorded as it is not relevant to the determination of a person's immigration status at that point. This data may be captured at a later stage where it is relevant to an application made or the individual has been detained.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121760/>

Refugees: Families

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121564] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of removing legal aid from refugee family reunion cases on those refugees seeking family reunion; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Legal aid for family reunion cases may be available through the Exceptional Case Funding Scheme (ECF), subject to the statutory means and merits tests, where failure to provide legal aid would breach rights under the European Convention on Human Rights or EU law.

Changes to the availability of legal aid for civil legal cases were made in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO). As part of the pre-legislative consultation process which preceded the passage of LASPO, the Government produced an impact and equality assessment which included the changes to the scope of civil legal cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121564/>

Refugees: Families

David Linden (SNP) [121703] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications, by nationality, for family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection were received by the UK in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the total number of visa applications in the 'Family: Other' category is published quarterly.

The most recent information can be found in the Home Office publication 'Immigration Statistics, July – September 2017', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121703/>

Refugees: Families

David Linden (SNP) [121704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions made by the UK on applications for family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection were (a) accepted and (b) rejected in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on grants and refusals of Family: Other are published in the Home Office publication 'Immigration Statistics, July – September 2017', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>.

The "Family: Other" category consists of:

- Family reunion: pre-existing family members (partners, minor children) of a

person with refugee leave or humanitarian protection, who has not yet obtained British citizenship;

- From July 2012: dependants who are not partners or children of those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection;
- From July 2012: parents with access rights to a child.

There are a small number of applications for family reunion where leave is granted in exceptional circumstances outside the Immigration Rules which are not included in the Family: Other category.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121704/>

Refugees: Sponsorship

The following two questions both received the same answer

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend immigration legislation to allow adult refugees in the UK to sponsor any dependent relative.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the immigration legislation to allow unaccompanied child refugees in the UK to sponsor their parents and siblings.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We already have a comprehensive framework for refugees and their families to be safely reunited in the UK. Our refugee family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection in the UK to reunite with them here. The family provisions in the immigration rules provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children when there are serious and compelling circumstances.

Our policy is also clear that where an application fails under the rules, we will consider whether there are exceptional reasons to grant leave outside the rules. In addition, refugees with family members in the UK may be eligible for resettlement under the Mandate and Gateway Scheme.

Our family reunion policy is designed to provide a safe and legal route for close, dependent family members to join their refugee family in the UK. This avoids the need for family members to make dangerous journeys in order to seek protection.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121571/>

Jobcentres: Refugees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121550] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans his Department has to provide training to JobCentre staff to support refugees.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Jobcentre Plus staff are trained to consider a person's circumstances and to tailor support according to their individual needs. Staff complete claimant awareness training that covers a wide range of claimant circumstances including refugees. Staff also have access to information on services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants including refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121550/>

Employment: Refugees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121559] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support his Department provides to refugees to find employment; and if he will make it his Department's policy to work with local authorities to increase such support.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Jobcentre Plus work coaches provide tailored support

to claimants with complex needs, including refugees, to help them find employment. Refugees will have early access to the Work and Health Programme which will help people who face additional barriers find work. Partnership managers work with a range of stakeholders, including local authorities, to establish what support is available locally, to encourage partnership working and to ensure claimants are signposted appropriately.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121559/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [121552] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on ensuring that newly recognised refugees receive the first payment of universal credit within 28 days of their application.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: DWP and the Home Office have recently introduced a supported handover process to assist newly recognised refugees needing assistance to claim benefits. This enables those participating in the process to access benefits by the end of the 28 day move on period, either through their claim to legacy benefits being processed by day 28, or through the offer of an advance payment of benefit that is made at their work-focused interview if they are being considered for Universal Credit. New claimants can already receive an advance of up to 50% of their estimated entitlement and this will increase to 100% later this month. Their repayment period may also move from six months to 12 months accordingly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121552/>

Refugees: Travel Requirements

David Linden (SNP) [121705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many travel documents were issued to beneficiaries of international protection in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of travel documents issued to those people who are not British and cannot use or get a passport. Information correct to August 2017 can be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2017> Table TD01. Information regarding eligibility for travel documents can be viewed at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-home-office-travel-document>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121705/>

Asylum

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [121078] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether immigration detention centres receive extra funding for their involvement in routine processing of asylum claims.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum Intake & Casework are responsible for considering asylum claims and are responsible for considering claims from those in detention through the Detained Asylum Casework (DAC) process. This is separate from the work of the Immigration Removal Centres. The Government believes that the process provides claimants with the necessary time and opportunity to enable their applications to be justly decided. The DAC unit is adequately resourced and funded to do this work and all DAC claimants are entitled to free legal representation through the Duty scheme operated by the Legal Aid Authority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/121078/>

Asylum

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [121352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions to cease asylum support were made in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications for asylum support, and on those asylum seekers who are currently in receipt of support in the Immigration Statistics Quarterly Reports. The current information is correct as to September 2017.

This information can be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#asylum>

The Home Office does not publish data on the number of decisions made to cease support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121352/>

Asylum

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [121353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many residents were accommodated in each asylum reception centre in the UK at the end of 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered. If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed

Quarterly data, correct as to September 2017, regarding the number of residents in initial accommodation is included in the published statistics, which can be found on data table volume 4 at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#asylum>

The Home Office does not publish data for each separate initial accommodation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121353/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [121354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were granted permission to work in the UK in 2017.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [121355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants granted permission to work were employed in Government Departments in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK unless their claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own. Those who are granted permission to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which can be found in the Immigration Rules Appendix K: shortage occupation list

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list>

The data requested on the number of asylum seekers granted permission to work is only held on paper case files or within the notes sections of the Home Office's databases. Therefore the number of asylum seekers granted permission to work who are employed in other Government Departments is not aggregated on a national level nor is it held in a reportable format.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121354/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121355/>

Asylum

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [121649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the reasons for the rise in the number of asylum applications in the last 12 months that have failed to receive a decision within six months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has, for 39 months, met its Service Standard to make decisions on 98% of straight forward asylum claims within six months.

Notwithstanding this, we are aware that the number of older cases awaiting decision is increasing. As noted by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration in his recent report on Asylum Intake and Casework, this is partly caused by issues relating to staff retention. We recruit high quality and highly skilled people to be asylum caseworkers and they are able to progress their careers quite quickly. However, plans are in place to address this and to reduce the number of older cases awaiting a decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121649/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [121979] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cessation of international protection (Articles 11 and 17 Directive 2011/95/EU) decisions were made by the UK in response to asylum applications in 2017; and how many cessation of international protection decisions were made by the UK in 2017 by nationality of applicant.

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [121980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many withdrawal of international protection (Articles 14 and 19 Directive 2011/95/EU) decisions were made by the UK in response to asylum applications in 2017; and how many withdrawal of international protection decisions were made by the UK in 2017 by nationality of applicant.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, for as long as it is needed, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention. However, refugee status is not necessarily permanent and it may be appropriate to revoke such status where it is clear someone no longer needs protection; where evidence emerges that status was obtained by deception; or where someone commits a serious crime and is a danger to the community or represents a threat to national security.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121979/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121980/>

Asylum

Frank Field (Labour) [122354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 26 October 2017, Official Report, column 412, when the Department plans to align the arrangements for covering basic living costs with the arrangements in place for asylum seekers.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In 2016-17 and to date in 2017-18, the subsistence rates paid to adult potential victims of modern slavery was at the level initially

tendered in the Adult Victims of Modern Slavery Care and Co-ordination Services Contract.

In October 2017, Government announced that it would change the level of financial support paid to potential victims of modern slavery, using the methodology that determines the subsistence rates paid to asylum seekers to ensure that individuals with comparable living needs receive the same level of support, regardless of their immigration status. There will be a higher level of support if victims are pregnant or have young children. The asylum rates are currently being reviewed so it is not possible to say how much they will be in 2018/19.

Victims will continue to receive dedicated and expert support, which is tailored to their unique needs as victims of modern slavery. This includes access to legal aid, counselling, NHS medical and dental services. This will ensure there is a fair and consistent approach for all individuals receiving similar government support. Furthermore, more money is being made available to treble the period of “move on” support, which will help people leaving victim support with their transition to other arrangements. It is essential that we target support to confirmed victims, at the point they need it most.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122354/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-25/debates/c5354424-190a-48f1-bd83-bff2a2b746f8/CommonsChamber#contribution-50017514-7955-423D-B5A9-36FEF9CDD7F1>

Asylum: Children

Lilian Greenwood (Labour) [121988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information she holds on the number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in EU countries who have a family connection to the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the EU Dublin III Regulation, it is the responsibility of the Member State where the unaccompanied asylum-seeking child is currently present to identify the Member State responsible for processing their asylum claim. Where there is evidence the responsible Member State is the UK based on qualifying family connections, we work closely with Member States to transfer eligible children to the UK where it is in their best interest to do so. We continue to meet our commitments under the Dublin III Regulation and work closely with EU Member States and partners to ensure it operates efficiently in respect of both adults and children.

Outside of the Dublin III Regulation, our Family Reunion Immigration Rules allow children to join their refugee parents, and there are also specific provisions that allow extended family members lawfully resident in the UK to sponsor unaccompanied children where there are serious and compelling circumstances. We have reunited over 24,000 partners and children with their families under our family reunion policy in the last five years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121988/>

Schools: Asylum

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121563] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance her Department provides to schools to support refugee and asylum seeker children.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The department does not currently provide schools with specific guidance on how to support refugee and asylum seeker children. Our policy position is that schools will take responsibility for ensuring that all of their pupils, regardless of their background, are engaged, challenged and attain to the best of their abilities. As such, it is for head teachers to determine how to deploy

the school's resources to best effect in meeting the particular needs of their pupils – including those who have refugee or asylum seeker status. Schools have flexibility over how they use their funding to support such pupils – including, where relevant, funding that is allocated for pupils for whom English is an additional language, and for those from financially deprived backgrounds.

If unaccompanied, asylum seeking children become looked-after by a local authority. The government is committed to ensuring that looked-after children, including those seeking asylum, are supported to succeed in education. Statutory guidance on 'Promoting the Education of Looked-After Children' and 'The Roles and Responsibilities of Designated Teachers' is available to support local authorities and schools in doing this. Revised versions of both documents, updated to include information on unaccompanied asylum seeking children, are due to be published on GOV.UK shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121563/>

Asylum: DNA

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to reinstate Government funding for DNA testing when it is required for asylum applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum claimants and their dependants are not required to provide DNA evidence to support an asylum claim lodged in the UK.

Those applying for refugee family reunion are not required to provide DNA evidence to prove their family relationship and can rely on other evidence to support their application. Our guidance on considering family reunion applications highlights the challenges that applicants may face in obtaining documents to support their application and makes clear the types of evidence that can be provided. This is available on Gov.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-reunion-instruction>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121565/>

Asylum: Legal Aid Scheme

The following three questions all received the same answer

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [121371] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance were made by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2017.

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [121372] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests there were for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in the UK in 2017 by type of procedure concerned.

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [121373] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2017 resulted in a grant of legal assistance.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The legal aid statistics published quarterly by the Ministry of Justice include figures on the volumes of new matters started. These figures are broken down by category of law, including asylum. The latest statistics, covering the period up until September 2017, are published at the following location <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>.

Statistics for the period October – December 2017 will be published on 29 March 2018 at the same location.

The LAA does not hold information in relation to the volume of requests not granted, nor is it able to break down the data on asylum matters to isolate those relating to the "first instance procedure".

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121371/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121372/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121373/>

Asylum: Appeals

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will examine the reasons for the number of asylum applications which are overturned on appeal; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration reviews all asylum appeals allowed by the Tribunal and is committed to using this information to continue to improve performance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121650/>

Asylum: Housing

The following five questions all received the same answer

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121908] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for what reasons the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme invitation for funding published on 23 November 2017, issued jointly by his Department and the Home Office is not open to equivalent asylum dispersal local authorities in other regions and constituent parts of the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121909] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether his Department plans to extend the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme, or an alternative scheme, to local authorities in (a) Northern Ireland, (b) Scotland and (c) Wales.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121910] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme will result in Barnett consequential for the devolved governments in (a) Northern Ireland, (b) Scotland and (c) Wales.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121911] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if she will publish details of her plans for the national evaluation exercise of the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme including but not limited to (a) whether and (b) in what ways evidence from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be collated and applied in the pilot to inform the new arrangements for asylum seeker support across the UK from 2019.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121913] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding the Government is providing for the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme; and for how long his Department plans to provide such funding.

Reply for Heather Wheeler: The Government is providing funding of up to £2.5 million from the local services element of the Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) which is administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The funding made available for this scheme comes from an existing MHCLG budget; it is not new funding. Therefore Barnett consequential do not apply.

The Government has no plans or remit to extend the scheme to local authorities in the devolved nations, which have their own funding arrangements in this area including through the Immigration Enforcement part of the CMF.

Funding is available for 2018/19 and the Government intends to publish its plans for the national evaluation of the scheme in due course. We expect all participating local authorities to contribute to the evaluation exercise so that

lessons can be learned to inform the new arrangements for asylum seeker support from 2019.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121908/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121909/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121910/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121911/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121913/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [121912] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which local authorities in England will be eligible to apply for the Supporting the asylum dispersal scheme; what criteria determines eligibility; which local authorities applied for the scheme by its deadline of 21 December 2017; what the outcome is of such applications; what the contractual requirements on local authorities are in terms of refused asylum seekers, and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government invited local authorities with the highest numbers of asylum seekers receiving Government support to apply to the scheme. Ten local authorities applied by the 21 December 2017 deadline – Bradford, Coventry, Kirklees, Leeds, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield and Wolverhampton. Additional applications have been received from Birmingham and Sandwell. Successful local authorities will be notified in due course.

Participating local authorities are expected to work with asylum seekers awaiting a decision and make them aware of the support available once a decision has been made, as well as preparing them for the consequences of a negative decision by supporting a voluntary return to their home countries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121912/>

Asylum: Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [122054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will provide details of the different stages of the procurement process for the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract; and when she plans to award that contract.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All Home Office contracts are tendered in compliance with the EU Procurement Directives, which ensure that there is a transparent and equitable procurement process. The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts, which will be replacing the current suite of contracts from 2019 is utilising the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation procedure.

Contract details and procurement timescales are available at:

<http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:461664-2017:TEXT:EN:HTML>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/122054/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [122556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether his Department has plans for local authorities to provide independent oversight housing for asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office and its Providers are committed to working closely with local authorities and communities to ensure the sustainability of asylum accommodation contracts. We engage with local authorities on a regular basis and welcome their involvement in ensuring that asylum accommodation is of the required standard. The Home Office and its Providers have undertaken inspections jointly with local authorities where the local authority feels this is necessary and would be happy to continue that practice in future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122556/>

Asylum: Employment

The following two questions both received the same answer

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will allow asylum seekers to work while awaiting a decision on their application for refugee status.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [121582] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will remove the limitation that asylum seekers are only able to work in jobs on the shortage occupation list, when granted permission to work.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK unless their claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own. Those who are allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List. This policy is designed to protect the resident labour market so that access to employment is prioritised for British citizens and lawful residents, including those granted refugee status. We have no plans to change this policy. Asylum seekers do not need to work whilst their claim is considered – they are provided with accommodation and support to meet their essential living needs if they would otherwise be destitute.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121578/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121582/>

Asylum: Syria

Jonathan Reynolds (Labour Co-op) [122035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that Orthodox Christians seeking asylum in the UK from Syria for persecution are given fair and appropriate treatment and consideration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All claims for asylum are considered on their individual merits, and where people establish a genuine need for protection, or a well founded fear of persecution, refugee status will be granted.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/122035/>

Asylum: Detainees

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [121652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers classified as having special reception needs were detained in the UK by type of special reception need in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The department currently does not record the information on the criteria as set. However, anyone who is classed as a vulnerable adult, including pregnant females and minors, are not detained for asylum purposes.

The number of asylum applicants who were detained in the first three quarters of

2017 is available in table dt_01_q of the detention tables in the latest release of the 'Immigration Statistics, July to September 2017', available from the Home Office website at; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121652/>

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [121736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which organisations and bodies have requested permission to access Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in each year since 2015-16; when each such organisation and body sought such permission; which of those requests were denied; and for what reason those requests were denied.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Since January 2016, when visits records were established, management information shows that no organisation or body has had its request to visit Dungavel House immigration removal centre declined.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121736/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Afzal Khan (Labour) [121753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps the Government has taken to improve conditions at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government takes detainee welfare very seriously and expects the highest standards from those who manage the detention estate on its behalf.

We have made this clear to G4S who are implementing a programme to enhance staffing and management and an action plan to deliver wider improvements at Brook House. These include the introduction of body worn cameras, improvements to the detection and prevention of drugs entering the centre and ensuring activities and facilities at the centre preserve and promote the mental and physical well being of detainees. Progress against this plan is being closely monitored.

Stephen Shaw is currently undertaking a stock take of progress against the recommendations in his report into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons published in January 2016. Brook House is within scope of this stock take. In addition, the G4S Board has also commissioned an independent review to establish the factors affecting staff morale and behaviour and attitudes to whistleblowing.

Independent scrutiny is a vital part of assurance that our removal centres are secure and humane and we will continue to implement action in response to independent recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and by the centre's Independent Monitoring Board.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121753/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Andre Mitchell (Conservative) [121987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2017 to Question 116507, what the average annual cost of detaining an individual in immigration detention is.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The average cost can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publication>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-10/121987/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-29/116507/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4443] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many incoming transfers under the Dublin III Regulation (regulation 604/2013) were made to the UK in 2017; and how many times the discretion under Article 18(1) of the Regulation was used in 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The discretionary clauses under the Dublin III Regulation can be found at Article 17 of the Regulation, with Article 17(2) being the relevant criteria for coming transfer requests

The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report.

The Commission has data up to, and including 2016. This shows the UK processed over 6,000 Dublin requests in 2016: over 4,200 outgoing requests to other Member States and almost 1,800 incoming requests. 2017 data is not yet available.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, Member States have two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim.

Once a Dublin request has been accepted (or legal matters have been resolved), the Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer. The Home Office works closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six month timeframe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4443/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL4496] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of the asylum procedure in the UK over (1) the last 12 months, and (2) the last three years.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL4497] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance in the UK over (1) the last 12 months, and (2) the last three years, for (a) Syrian nationals, (b) Afghan nationals, and (c) Iraqi nationals.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information regarding the average duration of the asylum procedure is not recorded and held in a reportable format. However the information relating to the percentage of initial asylum decisions made within the published service standard can be found on table Asy_10 of the Asylum Transparency data published on 30th November 2017

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2017>).

An extract of the table can be found below;

Quarter Application Received	Service Standard	Total Applications Received	Straightforward Applications Received	Non-straightforward Applications Received	Of those Straightforward Applications received, the number completed within Service Standard	Of those Straightforward Applications received, the percentage completed within the Service Standard
2017 Q1	6 months	6,731	4,140	2,591	4,093	98.90%

Information relating to the average time taken to make an initial decision is not recorded in a reportable format. However, information relating to the amount of initial decisions made in (1) the last 12 months, and (2) last three years for (a) Syrian nationals, (b) Afghan nationals, and (c) Iraqi nationals can be found in the Asylum data tables immigration statistics July to September 2017 volume 2 on table as_06; <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017-data-tables>

An extract is contained in the table below;

Year of application	Country of nationality	Total main applicants	Total initial decisions*
2014	Afghanistan	1,138	1,017
2015	Afghanistan	2,259	1,690
2016	Afghanistan	2,329	1,297
2014	Iraq	595	526
2015	Iraq	2,234	1,914
2016	Iraq	2,672	1,723
2014	Syria	1,968	1,850
2015	Syria	2,524	2,314
2016	Syria	1,376	1,000

*It should be noted that the Total initial decisions made may not correlate to the year in which the claim was made.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4496/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4497/>

Asylum

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [123154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers waited over six months for a decision on their asylum application in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data relating to the number of cases where a decision has been made after 6 months, however, the data on the number of cases awaiting decision for more than 6 months can be found on the tab ASY 11 in the below link. At the time of release in November 2017, there were 10,529 cases over 6 months old awaiting decision.

The Home Office does have a Service Standard to make decisions on 98% of straight forward asylum claims within six months and it has met this standard for the last 39 months.

We are aware that the number of older cases awaiting decision is increasing and have plans are in place to reduce this number.

Information regarding Asylum data is published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda the latest release of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123154/>

Asylum: Detainees

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Ramsbotham (Crossbench) [HL4493] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of detention for adult asylum seekers in the UK in 2017.

Lord Ramsbotham (Crossbench) [HL4494] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of detention for all minors seeking asylum in the UK in 2017.

Lord Ramsbotham (Crossbench) [HL4495] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average duration of detention for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in the UK in 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the length of detention of people leaving detention is available in tables dt_06_q and dt_09_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, July to September 2017', available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662536/detention-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods.

The table includes a breakdown of adults and child detainees who have previously claimed asylum at some stage. However, we cannot identify those minors which were unaccompanied. Figures for Q4 2017 will be released on 22 February 2018.

People leaving detention by length of detention, January to September 2017

Length of detention	Total Detainees	Of which: Adult asylum detainees	Child asylum detainees
*Total	20,730	10,222	24
A: 3 days or less	5,514	2,044	21
B: 4 to 7 days	1,483	855	2
C: 8 to 14 days	2,604	1,086	1
D: 15 to 28 days	3,619	1,550	0
E: 29 days to less than 2 months	3,494	1,875	0
F: 2 months to less than 3 months	1,566	978	0
G: 3 months to less than 4 months	794	546	0
H: 4 months to less than 6 months	813	631	0
I: 6 months to less than 12 months	680	536	0
J: 12 months to less than 18 months	100	75	0
K: 18 months to less than 24 months	41	31	0
L: 24 months to less than 36 months	20	15	0
M: 36 months to less than 48 months	2	0	0
N: 48 months or more	0	0	0

Figures are provisional.

Asylum detainees: People detained solely under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage.

The median length of detention for adults, who had claimed asylum at some point, between January and September 2017, was between 15 and 28 days. There are a small number of detainees who have been detained for long periods of time, which would skew the mean value. The median is therefore the most suitable

average for these data

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4493/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4494/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-08/HL4495/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (805) Foreign students in the United Kingdom – That this House recognises the contributions made by foreign students to the UK's economy; notes the research carried out by the Higher Education Policy Institute and Kaplan International Pathways showing that international students bring £20 billion to the UK each year; further notes the role played by universities in promoting the UK's values globally; and calls on the Government to drop overseas students from its immigration targets.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/805>

New Publications

Immigration policy: basis for building consensus

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/500/500.pdf>

Migration Statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

National Conversation on Immigration

<http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/national-conversation-interim-report.pdf>

News

A million extra EU migrants may be free to enter Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-million-extra-eu-migrants-may-be-free-to-enter-britain-cw83tj55t>

Theresa May must drop 'tens of thousands' net migration target because it 'undermines' public trust, say MPs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-cut-immigration-net-migration-target-politics-trust-commons-home-affairs-mp-drop-the-a8159811.html>

MPS raise 'serious' concerns over lack of official data on illegal immigration

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/15827611.MPS_raise_serious_concerns_over_lack_of_official_data_on_illegal_immigration/

MPs seek numbers on illegal migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-15/news/mps-seek-numbers-on-illegal-migrants-stbq6rb35>

MPs criticise error-hit 'hostile environment' for illegal immigrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/15/mps-criticise-error-hit-hostile-environment-illegal-immigrants>

Britain's immigration system 'too open to error', MPs warn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-s-hostile-environment-policy-too-open-to-error-and-risks-undermining-credibility-of-a8158656.html>

Why most people have a much more balanced view of immigration than you might think

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/comment/uk-immigration-brexiteu-citizens-foreign-workers-controls-migrants-racism-a8159531.html>

Trust in government to control immigration 'worn away by high-profile failures'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/15827617.Trust_in_government_to_control_immigration_39_worn_away_by_high_profile_failures_39/

Destitute UK asylum seekers get 80p rise in subsistence payments

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/15/destitute-uk-asylum-seekers-get-80p-rise-in-subsistence-payments>

Anger after asylum seekers given just 80p a week extra in Home Office ruling

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-crisis-asylum-seekers-80p-a-week-home-office-ruling-refugees-at-home-sara-nathan-a8160576.html>

Denying refuge to veteran Afghan interpreter is shameful, MoD told

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-19/news/denying-refuge-to-veteran-afghan-interpreter-is-shameful-mod-told-pnfdxcdt9>

Afghan interpreter for British army denied right to move to UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/19/afghan-interpreter-british-denied-right-move-uk>

Pakistani humanist denied UK asylum after failing to identify Plato

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/17/pakistani-humanist-denied-uk-asylum-after-failing-to-identify-plato>

Home Office rejects Pakistani humanist asylum seeker's claim because he couldn't answer questions about Aristotle or Plato

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-pakistan-humanist-asylum-claim-aristotle-plato-questions-reject-hamza-bin-walayyat-a8167311.html>

Migration targets are a form of calculated inhumanity

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/17/migration-targets-inhumanity-home-office-detention>

'England seemed so close': refugee, 15, crushed to death by Calais lorry

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/16/england-seemed-so-close-refugee-15-crushed-to-death-by-calais-lorry>

A plea for children like my brother-in-law, who died on Britain's doorstep

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/18/plea-children-died-britains-doorstep-theresa-may-emmanuel-macron-masud-naveed>

Dungavel detention centre in slave labour shame as asylum seekers paid just £1 an hour for work

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/dungavel-detention-centre-slave-labour-11851052>

Academic refugees have much to offer countries which give them a safe haven

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/s-karly-kehoe-debora-b-f-kayembe-and-shawki-al-dubae-academic-refugees-have-much-to-offer-countries-which-give-them-a-safe-haven-1-4664819>

Migrants help make Scotland a cultural melting pot

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/kenny-macaskill-migrants-help-make-scotland-a-cultural-melting-pot-1-4664194>

Choir helps boys find a voice through song

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/peterborough-male-voice-choir-helps-boys-find-a-voice-through-song-r8038330t>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-09928 Christina McKelvie (SNP): Celebrating BEMIS Scotland and the Importance of Multicultural Inclusion – That the Parliament congratulates BEMIS Scotland on its comprehensive programme to celebrate Scotland's diverse, multi-generational migrant communities as part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and the Scottish Winter Festivals 2018; considers that BEMIS' approach to encourage active citizenship within a human rights-based approach has enabled communities across Scotland to articulate what Scotland means to them as "home", utilising the cultural and social characteristics inherent in the global community of citizens who make up the mosaic of communities in modern Scotland; believes that this approach is underpinned by a shared objective to progress an inclusive national identity that is predicated on recognising that people are combined by their humanity and enhanced by their diversity; notes in particular that over 50,000 people have attended or participated in the 73 diverse celebrations across Scotland, including events such as Dusherra on Calton Hill, Stirling Chanukah, Edinburgh Diwali, Govan Community Projects AFRO Ceilidh, Glasgow Afghan United's Burns Supper, Aberdeen Multicultural Centres Burns Extravaganza, Edinburgh's Alwaleed Centres Taste of Islam and Ando Glaso/Govanhill – St Nicholas Day Roma Celebration and the Gaelic Athletic Associations Day of Irish Heritage; sends its best wishes to everyone attending BEMIS Celebrates BURNS as part of the world-renowned Celtic Connections 25th anniversary celebrations, which it believes is a fantastic night proactively showcasing Scotland's citizens in a spirit of mutual understanding and shared community.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09928>

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UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coroners

John Spellar (Labour) [121252] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what guidance is issued to Coroners on respect for religious beliefs which require speedy burial following death.

Reply from Philip Lee: Guidance for coroners is issued by the Chief Coroner. The needs of those faiths which require early burial can only be fully met if coroners provide an out of hours service. In his Annual Report for 2016-2017 the Chief Coroner recommended that coroner areas should provide an out of hours service but that they should normally do so on a 'light touch' basis. He went on to say however that "in some areas an out of hours service will require more, particularly in order to assist families who seek early burial for their loved ones". In addition, the Ministry of Justice's *Guide to Coroner Services*, which is available on gov.uk and is aimed in particular at bereaved families, says that "the coroner's office will take account where possible of individuals' views and expectations, including family and community preferences, traditions and religious requirements relating to mourning, post-mortem examinations and funerals".

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121252/>

The Annual Report referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663823/chief-coroner-report-2017.PDF

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/363879/guide-to-coroner-service.pdf

Arts: Ethnic Groups

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [122329] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to assist people from BAME backgrounds to be better represented in university arts courses and stage schools.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has commissioned research to understand the existing barriers that prevent people from lower income households and under-represented groups, such as those from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, specifically from becoming professionals in the performing arts. It is important that the performing arts are representative of society as a whole.

One of the ways this can be achieved is by doing more to ensure more people from BAME backgrounds go on to higher education. We now see record numbers of 18 year olds from all ethnicities entering full-time higher education according to data published by The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

However, for some groups of students from ethnic minorities there is more to do to improve their participation - their retention, success and progression to higher education.

That is why the most recent guidance to the Director of Fair Access in February 2016, asked him to focus on activity to continue to improve access and participation into higher education for students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds.

We are also introducing sweeping reforms through legislation. The Higher Education and Research Act includes the creation of the Office for Students, which has a statutory duty to consider the promotion of equality of opportunity for students as it relates to access and participation. It also includes a transparency

duty requiring all universities to publish applications, offers, acceptance and retention rates broken down by gender, ethnicity and social economic background. This will help to hold universities to account for their records on access and retention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122329/>

News

Nus Ghani is first Muslim woman minister to speak in Commons

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42733192>

Nusrat Ghani becomes first female Muslim minister to speak for Government in House of Commons

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nusrat-ghani-first-female-muslim-government-dispatch-box-house-commons-speak-transport-minister-a8168041.html>

First female Muslim minister makes 'a bit of history' in despatch box debut

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-5285197/First-female-Muslim-minister-makes-bit-history-despatch-box-debut.html>

Why do black students quit university more often than their white peers?

<https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/17/why-do-black-students-quit-university-more-often-than-white-peers>

BME people severely underrepresented in top English arts bodies

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2018/jan/15/bme-people-underrepresented-top-english-arts-bodies>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-18/debates/74DD6E76-8A7C-4522-80CB-853EA6B69745/HolocaustMemorialDay>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [122201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the rate of hate crime; and whether those steps vary depending on the group targeted by hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are committed to addressing all forms of hate crime. In July 2016, the Home Office published Action Against Hate: The UK Government's Plan for Tackling Hate Crime, an action plan which focuses on five key areas:

- preventing hate crime by challenging beliefs and attitudes;
- responding to hate crime within our communities;

- increasing the reporting of hate crime;
- improving support for victims of hate crime; and
- building our understanding of hate crime

The Home Office, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are leading a refresh of this action plan in 2018. The refresh will be overseen by the national Hate Crime Strategy Board which is jointly chaired by the two Departments.

Hate crimes are motivated by hostility or prejudice on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity – the majority of the actions we are taking forward address all five of these ‘strands’.

For example, we have committed up to £900,000 over three years from the Hate Crime Community Projects Fund (HCCPF) for local community projects. Also, in October 2017 the Home Secretary announced £200,000 of Home Office funding for a new national hub that will be run by police officers for the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) to help the police to tackle the emerging threat of online hate crime.

The Home Secretary has asked Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of the Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to carry out inspection work on hate crime to build a national picture of how effectively and efficiently police forces deal with all five strands of hate crime, including that committed online.

However, it is also right that some of our activities address hate crimes targeted at specific groups. Each of the five strands is represented by specific actions in the 2016 Action Plan, and in the 16 Hate Crime Community Projects the Home Office has funded to date. The Home Office is also funding protective security measures at faith institutions, through up to £2.4 million from the Places of Worship scheme and up to £1 million from the Vulnerable Faith Institutions scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122201/>

Gambling: Internet

The following five questions all received the same answer

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [121365] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions she has had with online gaming platform providers on ensuring that moderators identify and remove hate speech and ban offending users.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [121366] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether she has had recent discussions with online gaming platform providers on strengthening user guidelines to ensure that hate speech is removed and that offending users are banned.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [121367] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether she has had recent discussions with online gaming platform providers on the creation of a voluntary code of conduct for online gaming; and if she will make a statement.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [121368] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will include online gaming platforms in the UK Government’s code of practice for social media providers and if she will bake the code legally binding.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [121369] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what her Department’s policy is on tackling the use of hate speech on online gaming platforms.

Reply from Margot James: On 11 October the Government set out plans to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. The Internet Safety Strategy green paper considers options for working with online platforms, game publishers, game developers and with agencies such as the Video Standards Council Rating Board, to continue to improve online safety in games.

Through the Strategy consultation we have sought views on a number of online safety initiatives, including working with the video games industry to share guidance and best practice to help ensure their consumers can have a safe and enjoyable experience online. The Strategy also highlighted the announcement made by Home Secretary to create an Online Hate Crime Hub that will ensure that victims of online hate crime have their cases effectively and efficiently investigated.

The consultation closed in December and we are now analysing the responses. A government response will be published in due course. Details of Ministerial meetings can be found on Gov.uk.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121365/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121366/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121367/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121368/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121369/>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650949/Internet_Safety_Strategy_green_paper.pdf

Press Releases

Justice Committee backs Repeal Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/107511.aspx>

UN chief urges vigilance against anti-Semitism and discrimination of all kinds

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58451#.WmS3IZOFgqI>

European Roma Rights Centre receives Raoul Wallenberg Prize for combating racism, rights abuse

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-roma-rights-centre-receives-raoul-wallenberg-prize-for-combating-racism-rights-abuse>

New Publication

Tackling Islamophobia: A children's rights resource for secondary schools in Wales

<https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Tackling-Islamophobia.pdf>

News

Net firms 'better' at removing hate speech, says EU

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-42746781>

'It's like we don't exist': London's Gypsies stand up to be counted

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/jan/18/london-gypsies-counted-travellers-map-prejudice>

Schools urged to help tackle Islamophobia

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-42650014>

Student leaders to be taken to Auschwitz in bid to combat campus anti-Semitism

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/16/student-leaders-taken-auschwitz-bid-combat-campus-anti-semitism/>

Black police leader says some forces 'still institutionally racist'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-42702432>

H&M hires diversity leader in wake of 'racist hoodie' controversy

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/hm-racist-hoodie-diversity-leader-hired-a8164871.html#r3z-addoor>

The racism Cyrille Regis battled is still with us

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/martyn-mclaughlin-the-racism-cyrille-regis-battled-is-still-with-us-1-4663195>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scotland's place in Europe

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/scotlands-place-in-europe/>

Reducing loneliness and isolation

<https://news.gov.scot/news/reducing-loneliness-and-isolation>

New Publication

Scotland's Place in Europe: People, Jobs and Investment

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530160.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

Sarah Champion (Labour) [121598] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps have been taken to work with faith leaders to increase the number of signatories to the declaration condemning female genital mutilation and to use that declaration to help drive cultural change against such mutilation since 2016.

Reply from Rishi Sunak: Since publication of the Female Genital Mutilation Faith Declaration in 2014, over 250 representatives of faith communities have added their signatures, sending a clear message to communities across the UK that the

practice is an extreme form of violence against women and girls and is not supported by any religious doctrine. We call on all faith communities across the UK to condemn the unacceptable practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121598/>

Forced Marriage

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [122130] To ask the Attorney General, pursuant to the Answer of 10 January 2018 to Question 121288, on Forced Marriage, what the timetable is for cascading the 13 December 2017 masterclass and other training by local area forced marriage leads.

Reply from Robert Buckland: On 13 December 2017, a masterclass was delivered to all CPS Areas to address the unique difficulties in prosecuting so-called 'honour' based violence and forced marriage. This training will be cascaded by the local Area forced marriage leads by the end of June 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-11/122130/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121288/>

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Other News

Police are called in after primary school is 'intimidated' into dropping a ban on Muslim girls wearing hijabs

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5293127/Primary-school-intimidated-dropping-hijab-ban.html>

Top East London primary school backs down from ban on hijabs for girls under eight as petition says the move would 'curb freedom of religious expression'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5291809/East-London-primary-school-backs-hijab-ban.html>

St Stephen's Newham backs down on hijab ban after online abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/st-stephens-newham-backs-down-on-hijab-ban-after-online-abuse-dnh3mqfds>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/J/2018/1/18/Stage-1-report-on-the-Offensive-Behaviour-at-Football-and-Threatening-Communications--Repeal---Scotland--Bill/JS052018R2.pdf>

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Report Stage, House of Commons

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-16/debates/D57C9B33-2C83-42D0-B4CF-6821CF691349/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-16/debates/D57C9B33-2C83-42D0-B4CF-6821CF691349/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-17/debates/3B790638-0ABB-4CF2-BB80-9F417D843D98/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill#contribution-641B88FC-0183-4E2A-87D0-3BD8BD589972](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-17/debates/3B790638-0ABB-4CF2-BB80-9F417D843D98/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill#contribution-641B88FC-0183-4E2A-87D0-3BD8BD589972)

Third Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-17/debates/3B790638-0ABB-4CF2-BB80-9F417D843D98/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill#contribution-641B88FC-0183-4E2A-87D0-3BD8BD589972](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-17/debates/3B790638-0ABB-4CF2-BB80-9F417D843D98/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill#contribution-641B88FC-0183-4E2A-87D0-3BD8BD589972)

Bill as amended at Report and Committee Stages

[https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2017-19/compared-bills/EU-\(Withdrawal\)-Bill-tracked-changes-since-introduction.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2017-19/compared-bills/EU-(Withdrawal)-Bill-tracked-changes-since-introduction.pdf)

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-DPM.pdf>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

International students: economic and social impacts (closing date 26 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

Modernising the EU's common visa policy (closing date 2 February 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy_en

EU funds in the area of migration (closing date 8 March 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/eu-funds-area-migration_en

Electoral Reform (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

**** A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger communities** (closing date 27 April 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530204.pdf>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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**** this week!**

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and we will explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

**** this week!**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

24 January 2018 at Glasgow Caledonian University

For information contact the Scottish Interfaith Council admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778.

Discrimination Law in 2018: The authoritative review of the most dynamic area of employment law

29 January 2018 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an update on discrimination in relation to employment law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y6vxwcb> or contact Ross Mathers 0141 228 5919 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Working with Interpreters

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates

available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Rape Crisis Scotland training information evening

7 February 2018 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for self-identified women to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Rape Crisis Scotland information evening for people who would like to benefit from a supportive atmosphere, excellent training, and personal and professional development. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9vbgotf> or contact Mridul Wadhwa 0141 3314188 / volunteer@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuu> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age Assessment Awareness

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Supporting Those Affected by Forced Marriage

21 February 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to demystify forced marriage and help those attending to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact 0131 226 6606 / info@womensaid.scot or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/supporting-affected-forced-marriage/>

Immigration Act 2016: “The Hostile Environment” basics

13 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training for people providing services to or working with immigrants need up to date information to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

20 March 2018 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

20 March 2018 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Refugee Rights to Housing

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(closing date abstracts for posters, presentations and workshops: 6 October 2017)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

Refugee Community Sponsorship

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>
UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>
European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>
One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>
Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>
Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>
Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>
Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>
ACAS www.acas.org.uk
SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>
Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>
Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>
Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services
Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>
BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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