

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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**The UK Parliament is in recess until 9 October.
The next issue of MEMO will be on 3 October.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

The Bakhsh Family

Bob Doris (SNP): draw the First Minister's attention to the plight of my constituents the Bakhsh family, who have had their appeal for asylum rejected by the United Kingdom Home Office, despite their being at very real risk of religious persecution and their lives being in danger should they return to Pakistan. The community in north Glasgow, where the family has stayed since 2012, has rallied around them. The family's two sons, Somer and Areeb, were joined by school friends and the moderator of the Church of Scotland in handing to the Home Office a petition in support of the family that was signed by 85,000 people.

Does the First Minister agree that the need for a petition to draw attention to the Bakhsh family's plight in the first place demonstrates just how fundamentally flawed and

discredited the UK asylum process has become? Will she offer the family her support and best wishes? Will the Scottish Government—as I have already done—make representations to the UK Government to draw attention to the family’s plight?

Reply from the First Minister: I agree whole-heartedly with the sentiment of Bob Doris’s question, and I agree with the point about the deficiencies in the UK Government’s asylum and immigration regime.

The Scottish Government strongly believes that asylum seekers must be treated humanely and fairly with their dignity and rights upheld at every stage of the process. The Home Office has a duty to ensure that full account is taken of all the individual circumstances in every case. That is particularly important when applications are refused and absolutely imperative when children are involved.

I am very heartened to hear how the local community has rallied around the Bakhsh family and by the response to the Rev Linda Pollock’s petition. I also congratulate Somer and Areeb on what they have achieved in very difficult circumstances. They are an absolute credit to their parents, their school, their community and, indeed, Scotland.

The Scottish Government will continue to look at what appropriate representations we can make.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11657&i=105626#ScotParlOR>

Kweku Adoboli (Deportation)

Andy Whighman (Green): On Monday, my constituent Kweku Adoboli was detained by the Home Office. He is now in Dungavel detention centre facing imminent deportation to Ghana. In 2012, he was convicted of financial fraud as a result of systemic recklessness in the banking industry. He has now served his sentence and has been making a positive contribution to society by working with industry leaders and politicians. What support can the Scottish Government provide to Mr Adoboli, who is being forcibly removed from his home to a country that he barely knows? Does the First Minister regard that as a proportionate decision in light of Mr Adoboli’s long-established residence in the United Kingdom and, in recent years, in Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I have concerns about that case and frequently have concerns about how immigration cases are treated. I appreciate that this will be an extremely stressful and difficult time for Mr Adoboli and his friends and family.

I think that most people would accept that it stands to reason that it is right that questions of character and criminality should be a factor in any immigration system, but it is also important that the UK Government gives due consideration to individual circumstances. In this case, that would include the positive contribution that the individual has made to life in Scotland.

The Scottish Government welcomes non-UK citizens from all over the world and their contribution to our country, so we will continue to push generally for an immigration system that recognises individual circumstances and provides a welcoming environment. We are, of course, always willing to consider whether we can give assistance in individual cases, and I am sure that the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs would be happy to discuss that constituency case directly with Mr Wightman.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11643&i=105529#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Immigration

S5W-18539 Joan McAlpine (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what response it has had from the UK Government to calls for the devolution of immigration.

Reply from Ben Macpherson: The Scottish Government has published evidence

setting out why the UK Government's approach to immigration does not meet Scotland's needs. We want a more flexible and sensitive migration system tailored to Scotland's needs, an approach endorsed by this Parliament.

When we published our discussion paper 'Scotland's population needs and migration policy' in February, Fiona Hyslop wrote to the Home Secretary providing a copy of our proposals and requesting a meeting.

Whilst we are still awaiting engagement on the specifics of that request, I subsequently had an introductory meeting with the UK Immigration Minister, Caroline Nokes. I remain committed to seeking meaningful engagement with the UK Government given the profound impact immigration has on our nation's economy and society.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18539>

The discussion paper referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00531087.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-13829 Ross Greer (Green): Stephen Shaw Report on Welfare of Vulnerable Persons in Detention – That the Parliament notes the Home Office-commissioned report by Stephen Shaw, *Assessment of government progress in implementing the report on the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons*, which was published in July 2018 following his initial report to the Home Office in 2016; further notes that Stephen Shaw visited each immigration removal centre as part of his review; expresses concern at the report's findings that overcrowding and unacceptable conditions remain at many removal centres, and that procedures on misconduct among staff have not prevented abuses from taking place; agrees with the report that more needs to be done to protect vulnerable people from detention, and calls on the UK Government to cease the practice of detaining people for immigration offences.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-13829>

The report referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration Control

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-06/debates/FA72B5EC-8844-448E-BC60-FE05459E3E0F/ImmigrationControl>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

Immigration

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS961] As part of the clearance of the Calais camp in October 2016, the Government transferred 769 unaccompanied children to the UK, all of whom claimed asylum in the UK. The Government acted decisively at this time to remove vulnerable children from a dangerous situation where they were at risk of violence and abuse. The unique situation in Calais and unprecedented action we took to safeguard children demonstrated the Government's commitment to supporting the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis.

Of the 769 cases, 220 cases were transferred in accordance with section 67 Immigration Act 2016 (the Dubs amendment), and formed the first tranche of these cases. Some of these cases did not qualify for refugee or humanitarian protection under the existing rules; as such, in June 2018 we introduced a new form of leave (section 67 leave) for these cases.

The remaining 549 cases were transferred to reunite with family members already in the UK. These cases have been considered carefully and on their individual merits, and a large proportion of these cases have been recognised as refugees.

It is our view that all those 549 transferred from Calais to the UK to reunite with family should be able to remain here with their family members. In keeping with our commitments to family unity, we do not consider that it would be in their best interests to separate children from their families, having received significant support from UK authorities to reunite and integrate.

It is our intention to introduce, by laying a new immigration rule, a new form of leave for any of these cases that have not already been considered refugees. This leave will only be available for those that were brought over as part of the Calais clearance exercise in October 2016, who were under the age of 18 at this time, and who had recognised family ties in the UK. Individuals who qualify for this leave will have the right to study, work, access public funds and healthcare, and can apply for settlement after 10 years.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-13/debates/18091329000017/Immigration>

Migration Policy

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS940] The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) and I are pleased to announce that our Departments will implement a nationwide pilot to bring non-EU migrant workers to UK farms, commencing in early 2019.

The pilot will mean fruit and vegetable farmers are able to employ migrant workers for seasonal work for up to six months. 2,500 workers from outside the EU will be able to come to the UK each year, alleviating labour shortages during peak production periods.

Soft fruit production in the UK has grown dramatically, by 130% in the last 20 years. To ensure that this growth continues and the UK is at the forefront of the next agriculture revolution, farmers must also look at ways that technology can reduce demands for labour.

However, automated harvesting solutions are not universally available and so in the short term this pilot will support farmers during peak production periods.

The seasonal workers pilot will be run by two scheme operators, who will oversee the placement of the workers. The arrangements for selecting these will be announced in due course.

The pilot will run until the end of December 2020 and will be monitored closely by the Home Office and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-06/debates/18090633000019/MigrationPolicy>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [167930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals on immigration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government plans to bring forward an Immigration Bill in the first two-year Parliamentary Session as announced in the Queen's Speech on 21 June 2017. The timing for introduction has yet to be

confirmed and is subject to the Parliamentary timetable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167930/>

British Nationality: Oaths and Affirmations

Jo Stevens (Labour) [170801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much his Department has charged applicants for administering the oath of British Citizenship in overseas consulates in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A fee of £5 is charged for administering the oath of British citizenship. This fee has remained unchanged within the last 5 years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170801/>

Visas

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [170723] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there are plans to extend the ancestral visa to include people whose great-grandparents were born in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has no plans to extend the scope of the UK ancestry visa to include those whose great-grandparents were born in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170723/>

British Nationality: Republic of Ireland

Paul Girvan (DUP) [169753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Irish citizens living in the UK with a parent born in the British dominion of Ireland before 1949 are eligible for automatic British citizenship.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An Irish citizen whose parent was born in Ireland prior to 1949 would be a British citizen at birth if they were born in the UK before 1983; or born in the UK thereafter at a time when their parent was ordinarily resident here. If born outside of the UK after 1949, they would be a British citizen only where their parent retained an ongoing ability to pass on British nationality.

Where the circumstances above do not apply, they are able to seek naturalisation as a British citizen provided they meet the statutory requirements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169753/>

British Nationality: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [169466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have had an application for British citizenship refused due to not fulfilling good character requirements in each year for which information is available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The available published information on the total number of decisions to refuse applications for British citizenship where the applicant is found to be not of good character are published in Home Office's Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2018, Citizenship tables cz_09 (Refusals of citizenship by reason) available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#citizenship>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169466/>

Immigration: Biometrics

The following two questions both received the same answer

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [169575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of cases in which a Biometric Residence Permit is issued more than a month after the visa has been granted.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [169576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that a Biometric Residence Permit is issued within the service standard time after a visa is granted.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Figures are not kept in relation to the time it takes a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) to be issued from the date the grant of leave is decided. For applications for further leave or indefinite leave to remain made within the United Kingdom, once the application has been granted applicants are advised that they can expect delivery of their BRP within 10 working days.

This timescale takes into account the time it takes for the BRP to be produced by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the time taken for delivery to the customer.

Measures are in place to monitor the production process and to identify any cases that are stuck within production for any reason and ensure that they are resolved quickly. Over the summer period there were a small number of instances where a BRP was not received within 10 working days. The individuals who were affected by these delays were informed and the issue that had caused the delays is now resolved.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169575/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169576/>

Immigration

The following three questions all received the same answer

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [169458] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is that a person has waited for the return of passports and other official documentation after their immigration status has been decided in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [169459] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum length of time is that a person must wait for passports and official documentation to be returned to them after their immigration case has been decided.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [169460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the minimum length of time is for a person to have (a) passports and (b) official documentation returned after an immigration case has been decided.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where a decision is taken to grant leave, documents will be returned in accordance with current processes.

These processes act as a checklist to ensure that relevant documents are collected and returned in a timely manner.

Home Office officials have worked with Royal Mail to ensure the process to return documents is secure and timely.

Section 17 of the Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 gives the power to retain documents, such as a passport, where the Secretary of State or an immigration officer suspects a migrant is liable to removal and the retention of the document may facilitate removal.

The 2004 Act does not allow for the indefinite retention of documents. Where a person is later granted leave, in whatever capacity, the document must be returned to the holder unless it is a forgery.

The Home Office guidance can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/640156/Retention-of-documents-v8.0ext.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169458/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169459/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169460/>

Visas

Rosie Cooper (Labour) [171665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department has informed applicants for priority visas that the 30-day processing time would be extended to up to 12 weeks.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Priority Visa Service for settlement applications aims to process straightforward cases within 30 working days.

Those applications made under the priority service will be placed to the front of the processing queue and expedited. However, it should be noted that timescales for decisions are not guaranteed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171665/>

Immigrants: Compensation

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [171732] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has paid damages under its hostile environment immigration policy on condition that the recipient did not publicise that payment since October 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Further to my response to UIN 160359 of 4 July 2018 stated that since 2010 the Home Office had paid £12,360 in ex-gratia payments in relation to 8 cases where compliant environment measures had been applied.

Home Office records indicate that since 2010 there have been no payments for damages relating to compliant environment measures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171732/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-03/160359/>

Immigration: Low Incomes

Karen Lee (Labour) [169846] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department provides financial support to people on low incomes to apply for indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not provide direct financial support for people applying for indefinite leave to remain. However, no fee is payable for Indefinite Leave to Remain children in Local Authority care and children are also eligible for fee waivers in a set of specified Human Rights cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169846/>

Immigration: Married People

Laura Smith (Labour) [169780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many leave to remain applications were rejected from applicants married to habitually resident British subjects in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published data on decisions on applications for extension to stay is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734168/extensions-jun-2018-tables.ods.

Refer to tab ex_01_q and select 'Family'

The data does not capture 'applicants married to habitually resident British subjects'

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169780/>

Immigration: State Retirement Pensions

The following four questions all received the same answer

Patrick Grady (SNP) [170898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his policy for an application for settled status to be affected by the applicant being in receipt of a state retirement pension.

Immigration

Patrick Grady (SNP) [170899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Departments plans for the rules on the five-year continuous residency test for settled status applications to be the same as the rules for permanent residency applications.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [170900] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his Department's policy that the five-year continuous residency requirement for settled status can be satisfied by reference to any such period of time during an applicant's life in the UK rather than the most recent five years.

EU Nationals: Health Services

Patrick Grady (SNP) [170901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who have settled status will continue to be able to access the NHS after the UK leaves the EU on the same basis as EU citizens can today.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has decided, as a matter of domestic policy, that the main requirement for eligibility under the EU Settlement Scheme will be continuous residence in the UK.

We will accept a wide range of documentation as proof of residence. Where possible, the application process will help the applicant to establish their continuous residence and whether it amounts to five years, on an automated basis using data held by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and in due course also the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The latter may include data on receipt of state retirement pension.

Being in receipt of a state retirement pension may help the applicant to prove their residency, but receipt of public funds in any form will not affect the applicant's eligibility for the EU Settlement Scheme.

The requirement for five years' continuous residence can be satisfied by any such period of time during an applicant's life in the UK rather than the most recent five years, provided it began before 31 December 2020. However, the applicant must not have been absent from the UK for more than five continuous years since that period ended.

EU citizens and their family members who obtain settled status will be granted indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK. This status will provide the holder with the same access to benefits, education and healthcare as those who acquire permanent residence under EU law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170898/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170899/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170900/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170901/>

Visas: Young People

Steve Double (Conservative) [169515] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential economic merits of providing residency rights via express entry to British National Overseas participants of the youth mobility programme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme enables nationals from participating countries to work and stay in the UK for up to two years. British Nationals (Overseas) are eligible to apply under these arrangements. The scheme is temporary and therefore does not lead to settlement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169515/>

Immigration

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [167356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made on his review of his Department's policies on (a) immigration and (b) refugee family reunion.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We keep all immigration policies under constant review to ensure that the immigration system operates in the national interest. We are listening carefully to calls to expand the scope of the refugee family reunion rules and are reviewing our approach. We continue to follow the passage of two Private Members' Bills on refugee family reunion closely and will continue our productive discussions with non-governmental organisations in this area.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-23/167356/>

Entry Clearances: India

The following two questions both received the same answer

Martyn Day (SNP) [169563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules, HC1154, published on 15 June 2018, for what reasons India was not included; and what plans he has to include students from India in the future.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Martyn Day (SNP) [169564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules, HC1154, published on 15 June 2018, for what reasons Pakistan was not included, and what plans he has to include students from Pakistan in the future.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The addition of new countries and competent authorities to Appendix H is based on objective data. As stated in my previous response to UIN 160204 and UIN 157145, the factors which are considered include the volume of students from a country and their Tier 4 immigration compliance risk.

Information on risk profiles is sensitive and cannot be disclosed.

We will keep Appendix H under review, adding and removing countries and competent authorities from this list based on objective criteria at each refresh.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169563/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169564/>

The statement of changes to immigration rules referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/716675/140615_v2_CCS207_CCS0618810832-1_HC1154_Immigration_Rules-Print_003.pdf

The answers referred to above can be read at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-03/160204/>
and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-25/157145/>

Refugees

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [167843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications by refugees for Indefinite Leave to Remain submitted since July 2017 have still not received a decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published data on UKVI's performance against service standards for applications made in the UK as a whole can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-may-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167843/>

Immigration: Human Rights

Catherine West (Labour) [169618] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the target time is for processing a leave to remain application that is made on human rights grounds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not currently have a published service standard for family and private life applications but endeavours to determine what are often complex applications as soon as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169618/>

Immigration: Human Rights

Catherine West (Labour) [169619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current average waiting time is for the processing of a leave to remain case that is made on human rights grounds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on processing times for in-country leave to remain human rights applications is available within published In-Country Migration Data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2018>

Refer to tab InC_05: 'Non-Straightforward Workable'

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169619/>

Immigration: Human Rights

Catherine West (Labour) [169620] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain on human rights grounds have been processed in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on the volume of in-country leave to remain human rights applications is available within published In-Country Migration Data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2018>

Refer to tab InC_05: 'Non-Straightforward Workable'

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169620/>

Immigration: Human Rights

Catherine West (Labour) [170774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain on human rights grounds are (a) waiting to be processed and (b) under consideration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on the current volumes of in-country leave to remain human rights applications are available within published In-Country Migration Data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2018>

Refer to tab InC_03: 'In-Country Migration Work-In-Progress and Outstanding Not Input'

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170774/>

Visas

The following two questions both received the same answer

Gill Furniss (Labour) [169630] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many priority visa applications have been processed in the last 12 months within the six-week time frame set by his Department.

Gill Furniss (Labour) [169631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of priority visa applications processed in the last 12 months have been processed within the six-week time frame set by his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Priority Visa Service for settlement applications aims to process straightforward cases within 30 working days.

Those applications made under the priority service will be placed to the front of the processing queue and expedited. However, it should be noted that timescales for decisions are not guaranteed.

Data on PV settlement visa processing times is not currently published. Published data on settlement visa processing times can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169630/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169631/>

Immigrants: Commonwealth

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [135984] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who arrived in the UK from Commonwealth Countries before 1971 have been deported, removed, or left the country through the Assisted Voluntary Departure Service.

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [136000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2018 to Question 121792, on Immigrants: Commonwealth, if she will publish the number of Commonwealth citizens legally residing in the UK who have been (a) deported and (b) detained in error by her Department in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department has been carrying out a review of all cases of Caribbean Commonwealth nationality, born before 1 January 1973, who have been removed and/or detained by the Home Office since 2002 (when the Casework Information Database (CID) was available across the immigration system) and sought to identify any individuals where there was an indication in the record that the individual could have been in the UK before 1973.

The Home Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21st August to provide an update on this work. A copy of this letter has been deposited in the House Library.

This work is ongoing and the Home Secretary has committed to regularly updating

the Home Affairs Select Committee on progress

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/135984/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/136000/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121792/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821_-_Windrush_update .pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821_-_Windrush_update.pdf)

Immigration: Commonwealth

Helen Hayes (Labour) [136238] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK before 1973 have been (a) deported, (b) placed in immigration detention and (c) denied recourse to public funds since 2012.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department has been carrying out a review of all cases of Caribbean Commonwealth nationality, born before 1 January 1973, who have been removed and/or detained by the Home Office since 2002 (when the Casework Information Database (CID) was available across the immigration system) and sought to identify any individuals where there was an indication in the record that the individual could have been in the UK before 1973.

The Home Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21st August to provide an update on this work. A copy of this letter has been deposited in the House Library. This work is ongoing and the Home Secretary has committed to regularly updating the Home Affairs Select Committee on progress with this work, as well as a review into proactive compliant environment sanctions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136238/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821_-_Windrush_update .pdf

Passports: Windrush Generation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [169598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to ensure that naturalised Windrush applicants are exempt from paying any fees when applying for a first British passport.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: British citizens must pay for a passport and it would not be fair to existing British citizens to provide a free passport to those applying for British Citizenship under the Windrush Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169598/>

Windrush Generation: Scotland

Angela Crawley (SNP) [168098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from the Windrush generation have been identified as living in (a) Scotland, (b) South Lanarkshire and (c) Lanark and Hamilton East constituency.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The data requested is not available. Information relating to individual Windrush migrants is not recorded by constituency.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168098/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Paul Girvan (DUP) [169758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications he has received for the compensation scheme for the Windrush generation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Windrush Compensation Scheme is not yet in operation to receive applications.

The Government has committed to establishing a compensation scheme that is tailored to meet the needs of those affected. The Home Office published a consultation paper on 19 July seeking views on the design and operation of the scheme and this consultation period runs until 11 October. We will announce details of the final scheme and how to apply as soon as possible after the public consultation has ended.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169758/>

The consultation referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-scheme>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [169572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Windrush generation applicants to Government bodies including the Student Finance Company are not penalised as a result of their immigration status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has been working with departments across Government to introduce additional safeguards to ensure members of the Windrush generation can access services and are not impacted by measures designed to prevent illegal migration.

This includes strengthening our immigration status checking enquiry services to ensure potential Windrush cases are referred to the taskforce so their status can be addressed. The Home Office has issued guidance on these safeguards to public service providers responsible for conducting immigration status checks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169572/>

Immigrants: Caribbean

Mark Tami (Labour) [138952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases are known to (a) Ministers and (b) officials of her Department of people who have been wrongfully (i) deported and (ii) detained.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department has been carrying out a review of all cases of Caribbean Commonwealth nationality, born before 1 January 1973, who have been removed and/or detained by the Home Office since 2002 (when the Casework Information Database (CID) was available across the immigration system) and sought to identify any individuals where there was an indication in the record that the individual could have been in the UK before 1973.

The Home Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21st August to provide an update on this work. This letter outlined that, so far, this review has found eighteen people of Caribbean Commonwealth nationality, born before 1 January 1973, who told the Home Office they came to the UK before 1 January 1973 and stayed here permanently and who have been removed and / or detained. Eleven of these left the UK voluntarily and seven were detained.

These are the people we consider are most likely to have suffered detriment because their right to be in the UK was not recognised and where the Department is most likely to have acted wrongfully in removing and / or detaining them. Letters of apology are being sent from the Home Secretary.

A copy of this letter has been deposited in the House Library. This work is ongoing and the Home Secretary has committed to regularly updating the Home Affairs

Select Committee on progress.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-27/138952/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821_-_Windrush_update_.pdf

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Late Green (Labour) [149671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 May 2018 to Question 138436 on Immigrants: Caribbean, how many outreach community ambassadors have carried out that activity.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As part of our community engagement strategy, ministers and officials have met and continue to build on our relationships with prominent faith and community leaders through individual conversations and community meetings.

The Windrush Taskforce have delivered 24 outreach surgeries and have over 90 staff volunteers who are sharing and distributing our key messages among their communities and are feeding back to us about concerns and queries to address. Outreach events have been carried out at events such as the Bethnal Church Convention, West Midlands and at the Jamaica Independence Celebration, Crystal Palace.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-04/149671/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-26/138436/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Kate Green (Labour) [149672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 4 May 2018 to Question 138436 on Immigrants: Caribbean, how many African Caribbean touch points were included in each of the five cities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our Taskforce team has been conducting surgeries in communities working with MPs and community groups. So far 24 outreach surgeries have been held across the country including London, Birmingham, Bristol and Manchester and these surgeries are ongoing. Outreach events have been carried out at events such as the Bethnal Church Convention, West Midlands and at the Jamaica Independence Celebration, Crystal Palace.

This is an offer open to all and we have emailed MPs' offices, community groups and key stakeholders to highlight this support available.

There are forthcoming roadshows to gather views from those who have been affected which will feed into the Compensation Consultation and the Lessons Learned Review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-04/149672/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-26/138436/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [155249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the nationality is of each person referred to the Windrush Taskforce since its establishment in April 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary has committed to providing the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee with monthly updates on the work of the

department in relation to Windrush.

Information relating to nationalities of people referred to the Windrush Taskforce that have been issued with documentation, or granted citizenship under the Windrush Scheme, is included in the monthly update to Home Affairs Committee.

The most recent update was published on 21 August and is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/735170/20180821 - Windrush update .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/735170/20180821_-_Windrush_update_.pdf)

The next monthly update will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155249/>

Deportation: Caribbean

The following four questions all received the same answer

David Lammy (Labour) [136373] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children of Windrush Generation immigrants have been deported in each of the last eight years.

Immigrants: Caribbean

David Lammy (Labour) [136374] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children of Windrush generation migrants have been (a) detained in immigration detention centres, (b) denied access to healthcare, (c) denied access to benefits and (d) stripped of their right to work in each of the last eight years.

David Lammy (Labour) [136376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Generation children have been subject to reporting requirements as a result of her Department classifying their immigration status as uncertain.

David Lammy (Labour) [136394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to review all cases involving the (a) deportation and (b) detention of a Windrush generation child.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The department has been reviewing the cases of all Caribbean Commonwealth nationals, born before 1 January 1973, who have been removed and/or detained by the Home Office since 2002 (when the Casework Information Database (CID) was available across the immigration system) to identify any individuals where there was an indication in the record that the individual could have been in the UK before 1973.

The Home Secretary wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21 August to provide an update on this work. Letters of apology are being sent from the Home Secretary to the eighteen individuals who we consider are most likely to have suffered detriment because their right to be in the UK was not recognised and where the Department is most likely to have acted wrongfully in removing and / or detaining them. A copy of this letter has been deposited in the House Library.

This work is ongoing and the Home Secretary committed to regularly updating the Home Affairs Select Committee on this work, as well as the review into proactive compliant environment sanctions.

Children of the Windrush generation who were born in the United Kingdom will generally consider themselves to be British. However, in some cases they may need a document to confirm that status. Others will have the right to register as British. This is being facilitated through the Windrush taskforce. Additionally, any child of a member of the Windrush generation who was born abroad and who came to live in the UK before they were 18 and has been continuously resident and meets the good character requirements may apply to obtain citizenship.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136373/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136374/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136376/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136394/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821 -
Windrush update .pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821-_Windrush_update_.pdf)

Immigration: EU Countries

Bernard Jenkin (Conservative) [167821] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to ensure that in the event of no agreement being reached under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union there will be a UK immigration policy that does not give special preference to EU migrants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister has been clear that as a responsible Government we continue to prepare for a range of outcomes, including the unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached. We are therefore stepping up our preparations across government. The Department for Exiting the European Union and the centre of government are working with all departments to make sure that the preparations for exit from and new partnership with the EU are on track.

The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and will set out details later this year. Free movement will end, we will control immigration in the national interest, and EU migration will be subject to UK law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167821/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Priti Patel (Conservative) [168034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to ensure that in the event of no agreement being reached under Article 50 of the treaty on the European Union there will be a UK immigration policy that does not give special preference to EU migrants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister has been clear that as a responsible Government we continue to prepare for a range of outcomes, including the unlikely scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached. We are therefore stepping up our preparations across government. The Department for Exiting the European Union and the centre of government are working with all departments to make sure that the preparations for exit from and new partnership with the EU are on track.

The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and will set out details later this year. Free movement will end, we will control immigration in the national interest, and EU migration will be subject to UK law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168034/>

Immigration

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [169805] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of using the electoral register as evidence of residence in the UK for applicants to the settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will accept a wide range of documentation as

proof of residence for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. A list of recommended documents, which we have been discussing with stakeholder groups, is included in Annex A of the published caseworker guidance for the private beta test phase of the scheme:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736281/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Caseworker_guidance.pdf.

However, the range of evidence that may be accepted is not limited to this list. We recognise that some applicants may lack documentary evidence for various reasons, and we will work flexibly with applicants to help them evidence their continuous residence in the UK by the best means available to them. This includes thorough use of additional sources such as the electoral register.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169805/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Maria Eagle (Labour) [167894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the length of time EU citizens who participate in the private pilot of the new application process for the EU Settlement Scheme will have to wait for the outcome of their application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme will be simple and streamlined. Once the scheme has been fully implemented, we aim to process standard applications within two weeks, and during the private beta phase applicants may receive a decision more quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167894/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Maria Eagle (Labour) [167895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the private pilot of the new application process for the EU Settlement Scheme due to begin in the North West on 28 August 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: £170 million has been allocated this year for the further development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme. This includes building and testing the elements of scheme functionality which will be used during the private beta phase.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167895/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following five questions all received the same answer

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been invited to participate in the pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what projection she has made of the number and proportion of people invited to participate in the pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme who will do so.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have been invited to participate in the pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme had done so as of 5 September 2018.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people participating in the pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme will have to pay an application fee.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of the people who have been invited in the

pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme are in employment or in full-time education.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: From 28 August we commenced our first private beta phase of the EU Settlement Scheme to prove some of the functionality and processes in a live environment.

This phase is open to around 4,000 eligible EU citizens from three Liverpool universities and 12 NHS Trusts in North West England who are working for or studying at these institutions. Any non-EU citizen family members of EU citizens who have previously been issued a biometric residence card under the EEA Regulations and are working for or studying at these institutions are also eligible.

The private beta phase is entirely voluntary. EU citizens and non-EU citizen family members who are eligible do not need to apply now and can choose to apply after the scheme has rolled out fully. Given the voluntary nature of the private beta phase, we do not expect all eligible EU citizens and non-EU citizen family members to apply.

Applications will cost £65, which is the standard fee for applicants aged 16 or over. It will, however, be free for those with valid permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain documentation.

We will use the learning from this phase to improve our processes ahead of further phased roll outs to all eligible EU citizens and their non-EU citizen family members. Feedback from users so far has been very positive.

We will provide further details in due course of these subsequent phases, and we will continue to update Parliament as part of that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171406/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171408/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171409/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171410/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171411/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [171407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will place in the House of Commons Library a copy of the letter sent to EU citizens inviting them to participate in the pilot of the application process for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information about the private beta phase of the EU Settlement Scheme and how to participate in it was provided by the 12 NHS Trusts and three universities to their employees and students.

We will provide further details in due course of the planned phased implementation of the scheme, and we will continue to update Parliament as part of that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171407/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [172565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's EU Settlement Scheme launched on 28

August 2018, what the timeframe is for the (a) conclusion of and (b) publication of an assessment of the effectiveness of that pilot scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: From 28 August we commenced our first private beta phase of the EU Settlement Scheme to prove some of the functionality and processes in a live environment.

We will use the learning from this phase to improve our processes ahead of further phased roll outs to all eligible EU citizens and their non-EU citizen family members. Feedback from users so far has been very positive.

We will provide further details in due course of these subsequent phases, and we will continue to update Parliament as part of that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172565/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following three questions all received the same answer

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [172609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a series of monthly bank statements will be treated as acceptable evidence for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [172611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with banks about (a) the decision to allow applicants to the EU settlement scheme to submit as documentary evidence of five years of continuous residence an annual bank statement or an account summary covering a 12-month period and (b) that information being provided free of charge.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [172612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to support applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who will not be identified through automated checks of (a) HMRC and (b) the Department for Work and Pensions data because those persons have had (i) no taxable income (ii) have not been employed and (iii) have not applied for benefits; and what estimate he has made of the number of persons in this category.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will accept a wide range of documentation as proof of residence for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme, including, where necessary, to supplement the information provided by the automated checks of employment and benefits records.

A list of recommended documents which seeks to guide applicants to use the evidence they have most readily available, and which has been discussed with stakeholder groups, is included in Annex A of the published caseworker guidance for the private beta test phase of the scheme:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/736281/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Caseworker_guidance.pdf

We will update this list in light of the operation of the private beta test phase, but the range of evidence that may be accepted is not limited to the items on it.

We recognise that some applicants may lack documentary evidence, including bank statements, for various reasons, and therefore we will work flexibly with applicants to help them evidence their continuous residence in the UK by the best means available to them. As it is not a requirement of the scheme to provide bank statements, we have not discussed the matter with banks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172609/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172611/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172612/>

Seasonal Workers: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [167840] To ask the Secretary of State for Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of recent decreases in EU net migration to the UK on the ability of businesses to recruit seasonal workers from EU member states.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 27 July 2017, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee to advise on our future immigration system after the UK leaves the EU. We will await their report, which is due in September, before making any decisions about the future immigration system. EU net migration remains positive and the recently published labour market statistics continue to show more EU citizens in the UK labour force than at the time of the EU referendum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167840/>

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Kirstene Hair (Conservative) [168075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress he has made on preparations for the introduction of a new seasonal agricultural workers scheme; and what the timetable for the introduction of that scheme is.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is determined to get the best deal for the UK in our negotiations to leave the EU, including for our world-leading food and farming industry. We have asked the Migration Advisory Committee for advice on the UK's reliance on EU labour and they will help us shape immigration policy going forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168075/>

Undocumented Migrants: Calais

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [167883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK Government initiatives to prevent illegal immigration from Calais.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In preventing illegal migration from Calais (and Northern France more broadly), the UK continues to maintain a strong cooperative relationship with France. Most recently, our two countries signed the Sandhurst Treaty at the UK-France Summit in January 2018, which demonstrates our ongoing mutual commitment to the juxtaposed controls and adoption of a 'whole of route' approach to illegal migration. €50 million of financial support has been allocated to progress this cooperation. Our cooperation with France includes joint work to improve security at the shared border in northern France; to reduce illegal migration flows towards northern French ports and to support France in returning migrants with no legal right to be in Europe.

At the juxtaposed controls, Border Force officers use advanced detection technology available to identify migrants attempting to reach the UK illegally. In 2015 there were over 80,000 recorded attempts to illegally enter the United Kingdom from Northern France; in 2017 this was reduced to just over 30,000 as a consequence of the security enhancements and camp closures in 2016. This reduction signifies our approach is working, and builds on our cooperation under the Sandhurst Treaty, which has contributed significantly to a rise in the numbers being brought into the French asylum system, and a reduction in migrant numbers located around the Northern French Ports.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167883/>

Refugees: Syria

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [170888] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees of each religious group his Department has (a) recommended to be resettled by the UN; and (b) agreed to resettle in the UK in each quarter of each of the last four years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK's resettlement programmes follow the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality, which means that we resettle solely based on needs identified by UNHCR through their established processes, rather than on the basis of ethno-religious origin.

We believe that one way to protect the privacy of those being resettled and support their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available.

We therefore do not routinely publish a religious and ethnic breakdown of those who have been resettled, however internal management information indicates that the majority of Syrian refugees referred by UNHCR, and resettled to the UK are Muslim, with Christians and other religious groups represented in smaller numbers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170888/>

Refugees: Syria

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [173613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 September 2018 to Question 170888 on Refugees: Syria, what proportion of Syrian refugees of each religious group recommended to be resettled by the UNHCR the UK agreed to resettle in each of the last four years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK's resettlement programmes follow the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality, which means that we resettle solely based on needs identified by UNHCR through their established processes, rather than on the basis of ethno-religious origin

We do not routinely publish a religious and ethnic breakdown of those who have been resettled, however internal management information indicates the proportions of Syrian refugees who are recommended for resettlement and those who are subsequently accepted for resettlement are broadly consistent across religious denominations

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-11/173613/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170888/>

Refugees: English Language

Louise Ellman (Labour Co-op) [169080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to improve the English Language lessons service for refugees; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is committed to ensuring that all refugees have access to the English language support they need. For refugees resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme the Government has provided additional funding which can be accessed by local authorities. Those who make their own way to the UK to claim asylum and are granted refugee status are eligible for funding for English language courses through the Adult Education Budget. Courses are free for unemployed refugees who are looking for work.

The Government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper on 14th March

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>).

This included proposals on the future of integration support for refugees and set out that the Government will work with civil society to increase integration support for refugees recognised after arrival in the UK. The Green Paper committed Government to share best practice and build on learning about what works in relation to support for refugees on employment, English language, mental health and cultural orientation. It also proposed the development of a new English language strategy for England.

Consultation on the Green Paper closed in June and there will be a Government response in the Autumn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169080/>

Refugees: Families

The following two questions both received the same answer

Nicky Morgan (Conservative) [173568] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of visas granted in 2017 for refugee family reunion under part 11 of the Immigration Rules were used.

Nicky Morgan (Conservative) [173569] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visas for refugee family reunion were granted outside the rules in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Statistics on refugee family reunion can be found in Home Office Asylum tables volume 5, table as_21_q –

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734178/asylum5-jun-2018-tables.ods

Information can also be found in the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration re-inspection of the family reunion process, focusing on applications received at the Amman Entry Clearance Decision Making Centre:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737724/Final_Artwork_Reinspection_Family_Reunion_Amman.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-11/173568/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-11/173569/>

Refugees: Children

Lesley Laird (Labour) [169822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied child refugees have been re-settled in Scotland in each of the last three years; and how many of those children were resettled with family already living in Scotland.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) resettles 'at-risk' refugee children from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including their families. Our aim is to resettle up to 3,000 people (children and families, where the child at risk is part of a family unit) through the scheme by 2020.

The scheme does not solely target unaccompanied children, but on UNHCR's advice also extends to vulnerable 'children at risk', such as those threatened with child labour, child marriage and other forms of abuse or exploitation. It is open to all at risk groups and nationalities within the region.

The scheme, which is the largest resettlement effort aimed specifically at children at risk from the MENA region, is in addition to the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees from Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS).

The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169822/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [168944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of extending the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme beyond 2020.

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [168945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of expanding the geographic reach of the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme is the largest resettlement effort aimed specifically at children at risk from the MENA region. There are no plans to increase its geographical reach at this time.

Looking to the future, we have begun work with key stakeholders and international organisations on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy, which includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/168944/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/168945/>

Homelessness: Refugees

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [170312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of homelessness of refugees granted discretionary leave to remain with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: No assessment has been made.

This is because migrants who are recognised as refugees are granted leave to remain with access to public funds. They are therefore eligible to apply for mainstream benefits and assistance from their local authority to find housing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170312/>

Refugees: Private Rented Housing

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [169467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that refugees are not excluded from the private rented sector as a result of the introduction of the right to rent scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The right to rent scheme has been developed to ensure that those with lawful immigration status, such as refugees, can demonstrate it easily. Refugees are issued with a Biometric Residence Permit which provides confirmation of their status. However, there is a broad range of documents that potential tenants can use to demonstrate their right to rent. These are not based solely around passports or immigration documents. Details of acceptable documents can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573057/6_1193_HO_NH_Right-to-Rent-Guidance.pdf

Landlords can also use the Home Office Checking Service where a prospective tenant is unable to present documents, because they have submitted them to the

Home Office. This is a simple and efficient, case-specific service which can be accessed online, or via a dedicated helpline, to check whether a tenant or prospective tenant has a right to rent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169467/>

Asylum

Kemi Badenoch (Conservative) [169648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will bring forward proposals to assess the skills of people seeking asylum in the UK at the point of entry.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The primary purpose of the asylum system is to decide claims in line with our international obligations and the 1951 Refugee Convention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169648/>

Asylum

David Crausby (Labour) [169017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time was for a final decision on an asylum application in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: 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-august-2018>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169017/>

Asylum

Rosie Cooper (Labour) [169183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of UKVI's communications with asylum claim applicants on the progress of their applications; and if he will take steps to ensure that those applicants receive adequate communications on the progress of their applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office aims to keep individuals informed of progress with their application at least every 6 months. This process is kept under review and we are working to make technology improvements to the process of updating individuals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169183/>

Asylum: Housing

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [170432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any government contracts for the provision of housing to asylum seekers include options for the payment of a bonus to the provider if certain criteria are met.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [170433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any bonus payments have been paid by the Government to any companies currently providing asylum seeker accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The United Kingdom Visa and Immigration Service (UKVI) discharges their statutory duty to provide destitute asylum seeker accommodation and transport via a suite of COMPASS contracts with three providers. The contract payment mechanism is based on per person per night cost and does not include any bonus payment facility.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170432/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170433/>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [170434] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether provisions have been included in the draft asylum accommodation renewal contract for the future (a) amendment and (b) termination of the contract; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of enacting such provisions.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The draft asylum accommodation contract includes provision for amendment through a formal change control process that is subject to agreement and formal signing of variation by both parties.

The draft contract also includes provision for termination on grounds of cause or convenience at the authorities absolute discretion. Costs associated with enacting any of these provisions will vary on a case by case basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170434/>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [170435] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Departments policy on asylum accommodation since 2012.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office provides accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. The accommodation is arranged through a number of housing providers, who are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard, as well as standards outlined in relevant national housing legislation.

There is an inspection and contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the standards required in the contracts are met.

We remain in regular discussion with Providers, service users, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders about ways to improve the services provided and we will be making a number of improvements to the design of the future contracted services as a direct result of such feedback.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170435/>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [170436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his Department has had with (a) external experts and (b) asylum seekers on the design of the contract for asylum seeker housing from 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders across local government, statutory and third sector as part of the development of the new asylum accommodation contracts and the information obtained through this process has influenced the design of the future service provision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170436/>

Asylum: Housing

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [171727] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to (a) monitor and (b) enforce the

provisions in the asylum accommodation contract that people who would otherwise be destitute will continue to be housed.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [171728] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have had their housing provision removed before their asylum process was fully completed including the appeals process since 2012.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Section 95 of the of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 provides that an asylum seeker is destitute and therefore eligible to receive accommodation and other support from the Home Office if:

a) he does not have adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it (whether or not his other essential living needs are met);

or b) he has adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it, but cannot meet his other essential living needs.

The definition is not changed by the re-tender of the Home Office asylum accommodation contracts. The legislation provides that, unless there are children in their household, a person ceases to be eligible to receive section 95 support 21 days after their asylum claim or any appeal is finally rejected. However, another form of support, including accommodation, is available under section 4(2) of the 1999 Act if the person is taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a temporary or legal or practical obstacle that prevents their departure.

Cessation of s95 support occurs once an applicant is no longer eligible, through having exhausted all appeal rights, being granted a form of leave, has been removed from the country or having left the accommodation voluntarily. Operational checks are undertaken to ensure that there are no outstanding issues or applications, and support can be reinstated if information is received to the contrary.

There is no provision in the accommodation contracts that enable people who cease to qualify for section 95 support and do not qualify for section 4(2) support to continue to be housed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171727/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-07/171728/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [172530] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that asylum (a) accommodation and (b) facilities support adequately vulnerable people seeking asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All applicants for asylum support and accommodation are asked to declare any specialist circumstance or specific accommodation requirements as part of the consideration of their initial application form. In accordance with our published policy, the Home Office will carefully consider all requests on a case by case basis from asylum seekers who may have particular vulnerabilities, care needs or health problems that necessitate a need for a specific location or specialist accommodation requirements. Further details regarding this policy can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy>

A further ongoing assessment of needs is undertaken by asylum accommodation providers commencing upon initial entry into accommodation. All asylum accommodation Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate, including those who have health care issues. In addition Providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including advice from social services

and primary and secondary care bodies on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual.

A property inspection process forms part of the Home Office's contract compliance regime which ensures that the required performance standards expected of all providers are met. Where inspected property does not meet the required standards there are strict time limits on resolving property defects; failure to meet those time limits can result in service credits being applied through financial deduction from monthly invoices. These are monitored formally, on a monthly basis, at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172530/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [172531] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to ensure the monitoring of the (a) quality and (b) effectiveness of the housing provided under the new ten-year asylum contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The forthcoming Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts, include clearly defined performance standards measured through a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set within a wider Performance Management Regime (PMR) that will ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Service Users.

This will include ensuring that accommodation is 'Safe', 'Habitable', and 'Fit for Purpose' and is delivered in accordance with the Decent Home Standard, the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. Accommodation providers will also be required to ensure that accommodation meets any other statutory housing standards which are applicable in the specified contract region and is compliant with any Local Authority licensing requirements whilst the property is used to accommodate Service Users.

A property inspection and audit process will form part of the Home Office's contract compliance regime which will ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers are met. Where inspected property does not meet the required standards, there are strict contractual time limits on resolving property defects; failure to meet those time limits could result in service credits being applied through financial deduction from monthly invoices. These will be monitored formally, on a monthly basis, at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172531/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [172532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities have made representations to his Department on the new asylum accommodation contracts; and whether his Department has received representations on those contracts from the Local Government Association.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: To continue to meet UKVI's obligation to provide accommodation & support to destitute asylum seekers, the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation (AAST) project has been established to design, develop and procure the future model for asylum accommodation and support, replacing the existing COMPASS arrangements when they expire in Sept 2019.

Since the establishment of the project in the autumn of 2016, there has been extensive engagement with strategic stakeholders, including Strategic Migration Partnerships, Local Authorities and Non-Government Organisations to identify a range of enhancements and improvements to the existing model which have been

reflected in the design of the next generation of contracts.

We estimate that there have been over 60 separate stakeholder events or written exercises undertaken since autumn 2016. Details of the feedback provided by individual stakeholders from this engagement could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual correspondence, event minutes and records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172532/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [172535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has undertaken an equality impact assessment of its policy on room sharing in asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government expects the highest standards from our contractors and Providers are monitored closely to ensure they continue to meet these standards. There are strict criteria set out in the current asylum accommodation contracts around when room sharing can take place and who can share a room.

Providers must also comply with national and local housing regulations including advice from social services and primary and secondary care bodies on whether room sharing is inappropriate for individual cases and discussions about equality impacts form part of regular engagement with stakeholder groups.

The COMPASS contracts and their associated procurement exercise defined the required performance standards expected of all providers including sensitivity of equality impacts. Equality assessments with regard to room sharing elements of the contract have not been undertaken in isolation from wider contract tendering and management processes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172535/>

Asylum: Evictions

Chris Stephens (SNP) [169516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions his Department have had with Serco on recent reports of the eviction of asylum seekers from their allocated properties; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office currently provides accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, until their asylum claim is fully determined or where they have a practical or legal obstacle that temporarily prevents them leaving the UK.

The individuals who are subject to the proposed lock change notices in Scotland are those who have no right to accommodation, have had their asylum claims determined and, where relevant, upheld by the courts.

Home Office officials are in regular contact with our accommodation providers as part of our day to day management of the accommodation contracts.

In relation to the issuing of lock change notices there have been a number of meetings between senior officials, Serco and relevant stakeholders to address this issue, with a protocol agreed with partners in Glasgow City Council around how such cases are managed.

In addition, following a productive series of meetings over recent weeks my officials and representatives from Serco form part of a Task Force chaired by Glasgow City Council which is committed to reviewing the cases identified by Serco that may no longer be entitled to Home Office support to ensure they are managed appropriately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169516/>

Asylum: Finance

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [169325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the rates of financial assistance provided through asylum support.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The most recent assessment of the adequacy of the asylum support rates is set out in a report published in March 2018, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>.

We are currently undertaking a further review of the rates and have consulted key stakeholders in the normal way.

The consultation period has now ended and a decision on whether the rates should change will be made shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169325/>

Asylum: Finance

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [169326] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to extend the length of time that newly recognised refugees can continue to claim asylum support after a decision to grant leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Newly recognised refugees can continue to claim asylum support for a further 28 days after the grant of their status. There are no plans to extend this period.

The grant of refugee status means refugees are eligible to apply for mainstream benefits. If they would like assistance with the application an early appointment at a local job centre is arranged for them. This process is designed to ensure that refugees receive the first payment of any benefit they are entitled to before the 28 days period expires, either by full payment of the benefit or through an advance payment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169326/>

Asylum: Interpreters

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [169327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what measures are in place to ensure that interpreters of interviews during the asylum process are able to translate to a high quality and produce work to an accredited standard.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All asylum interviews are carried out by an impartial interviewing officer.

All interpreters engaged by the Home Office must demonstrate they have the required skills and qualifications. They must also:

- be a full member of the National Register of Public Services Interpreters (NRPSI), or
- hold a Diploma in Public Services Interpreting (DPSI) (Law) or a letter of Credit in all oral components (Law), or
- have been assessed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) (formerly the Immigration Appellate Authority), or
- have been assessed by the Metropolitan Police.

They are also bound by a “Code of Conduct” to ensure minimum standards for interpreting and behaviour.

Home Office policy and guidance ensures that in the event of interpreters or interviews falling short of those standards, it would not adversely affect an individual’s asylum claim.

Interviewing Officers are encouraged to provide feedback on the performance of interpreters, using specifically designed monitoring forms. Interviews may also be

monitored for training and security purposes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169327/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [169328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has plans to fund independent advice on the asylum process for people subject to asylum processes.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has provided grant-funding on a national level to Migrant Help for the provision of independent advice to asylum seekers since April 2014.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169328/>

Asylum: Interviews

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [169329] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to ensure that (a) people seeking asylum are able to access legal advice prior to their screening interviews and (b) screening interviews for asylum are not used during credibility assessments.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All asylum claimants have the opportunity to be legally represented during the consideration of their asylum claim; the Legal Aid Agency ensures that legal aid funding is provided to those who need it. Free independent guidance is available to claimants provided by Migrant Help, including on finding legal representation. The straightforward nature of the screening interview means that claimants do not, in general, need to have legal advice prior to that interview.

The process of making an asylum decision is underpinned by an overall assessment of credibility where decision-makers must carefully consider all available evidence, including responses and statements provided during the completion of the screening questionnaire. Where a claimant makes a statement at asylum screening which is inconsistent with a statement provided later, they will be provided an opportunity to explain the discrepancy during their substantive interview.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169329/>

Asylum: Legal Aid Scheme

The following two questions both received the same answer

Kate Green (Labour) [167957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking with other government departments to ensure that asylum seekers are able to present in their substantive asylum interview all information relevant to their claim and are able to access legal representation and advice.

Kate Green (Labour) [167958] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking with the Ministry of Justice to ensure that legal aid availability meets the needs of asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are committed to delivering an asylum process which supports claimants in providing all information relevant to their claim to facilitate fair and sustainable asylum decisions. All interviewing personnel receive extensive training on interviewing and considering asylum claims, and must follow published Home Office policy guidance.

Legal aid remains available for individuals claiming asylum. The Lord Chancellor is also conducting a review of the recent legal aid reforms and the Home Office is inputting into this. The Government is keen to hear from interested parties to establish the impact of these changes, and the findings will be published later this year. The Government also plans to use this opportunity of engagement with

stakeholders to inform its wider consideration on the future of legal support in the justice system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167957/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/167958/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

The following three questions all received the same answer

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [169819] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that women claiming asylum who have experienced forms of violence that may be difficult to disclose have adequate access to legal representation.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [169820] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that women seeking asylum who have experienced forms of violence that may be difficult to disclose have adequate access to legal representation.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [169821] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that LGBTQ+ people seeking asylum who have experienced forms of violence that may be difficult to disclose have adequate access to legal representation.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The government is clear that legal aid is available to those who need it most.

Subject to statutory means and merit tests, applications and appeals for asylum generally remain in scope for civil legal aid and advice can be accessed without the need to evidence any the specifics of the violence that an applicant may have experienced. The LAA procures immigration and asylum providers who are specialists in this area and are expected to be alert and aware of all issues relating to refugee and asylum status including any possible gender dimensions.

We recognise that it may be difficult to disclose sensitive information. The Home Office has taken steps to make this process sensitive by, for example, providing gender-specific interviewers and interpreters on request.

The Government is committed to delivering an asylum process which supports claimants in providing information relevant to their claim to facilitate fair and sustainable asylum decisions. This includes a commitment to ensuring that those who have suffered forms of violence feel able to disclose their experiences early in the asylum process so that decision-makers can consider that evidence and grant protection where needed without undue delay. At the point of claim, the Home Office provides information to asylum claimants including on legal advice.

This includes details of support organisations that may be relevant for those who have experienced gender-based violence, torture, trafficking and modern slavery.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169819/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169820/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169821/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angela Crawley (SNP) [168114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many pregnant women have been deported after being detained in an immigration detention centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, which came into force on 12 July 2016, placed a 72 hour limit on the detention of pregnant women for the purposes of removal, extendable to up to a week in total with Ministerial authorisation.

It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose confidential medical information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed. Subject to these limitations, Home Office management information indicates that 104 pregnant women were detained in the immigration detention estate between 12 July 2016 and 30 June 2018. Of these women, 20 were removed from the UK directly from detention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-24/168114/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [172556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Oral Statement of 24 July 2018, Official Report, column 909, on Immigration Detention: Shaw Review, if he will publish the findings of the review of how time limits work in other countries.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [172560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Oral Statement of 24 July 2018, Official Report, column 909, on Immigration Detention: Shaw Review, what the timeframe is for the conclusion of the review of how time limits on detention work in other countries.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [172561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Oral Statement of 24 July 2018, Official Report, column 909, on Immigration Detention: Shaw Review, what the process is for (a) charities and (b) people with experience of being detained to be consulted on review of how time limits on detention operate.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Home Secretary commissioned a fact-finding project to understand how time limits on immigration detention work in other countries and how they relate to any other protections within their immigration detention systems. We are inviting other countries to engage on this project. The timetable for delivery will be driven by their availability.

The focus of this review is to gather facts and information from the Governments concerned. There are no plans for charities and people with experience of having been detained to be directly involved. Once the review is complete, my Rt. Hon. Friend will consider the next steps.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172556/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172560/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172561/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-07-24/debates/03FA26A3-90A1-4E58-826A-1341ABA6D146/ImmigrationDetentionShawReview>

Human Trafficking

Afzal Khan (Labour) [171418] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a dedicated case-work team in the National Referral Mechanism hub that makes decisions on referrals made on behalf of potential victims of trafficking who are in detention.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [171419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether decisions on National Referral Mechanism referrals on behalf of potential victims of trafficking in detention are allocated to a specific team within the UK Competent Authorities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: When referred into the National Referral Mechanism, potential victims of trafficking or modern slavery are considered by one of the UK's competent authorities: the National Crime Agency (NCA), UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI), and Immigration Enforcement (IE) for a very small number of cases.

The consideration of referrals for potential victims of trafficking who are detained and are not UK or EEA nationals is conducted by trained decision makers within UKVI and IE, depending on the nature of the detention. The consideration of referrals for UK and EEA nationals is conducted by the NCA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171418/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-06/171419/>

Slavery: Victims

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [169676] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his policy is on the eligibility of survivors of modern slavery for publicly-funded education; what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the application of the Immigration Rules to institutions which provide education for survivors of modern slavery; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Under international law, all children have the right to an education. Children and young people who are the survivors of modern slavery will normally be in local authority care while their immigration status is under consideration.

Such 'looked-after children' must be given highest priority for admission to English state-funded schools and young people in this situation are eligible for funding for 16-19 education or training in England.

To meet the eligibility requirements for student support for higher education in England, a student should normally be resident in England, have 'settled' status or a recognised connection with the UK and have been a resident of the UK and Islands (Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for the three years prior at the start of the course. Exceptions are made for students who have been granted refugee status following a successful asylum claim, including the proportion of that group who have been confirmed as victims of modern slavery.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State regularly meets Cabinet colleagues to discuss a variety of issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169676/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Visas: Certificates of Sponsorship

Lord Clement-Jones (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of changes to arrangements for Certificates of Sponsorship, in particular those affecting artists visiting the United Kingdom for music festivals.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, we welcome artists from across the world visiting the UK to perform in music festivals, recognising the needs of the creative arts and to promote the creative industries. Specific arrangements were introduced in 2008

under tier 5. While there have been no changes to these, we recognise concerns raised by the sector about the operation of tier 5 in specific areas and we are working with it to understand and address them accordingly.

Lord Clement-Jones: My Lords, the UKVI now seems to be telling its officers that all non-EU entertainers need an entry visa if they come through Ireland, whereas previously, certificates of sponsorship could be presented and activated when they came to Britain. This change was not announced publicly and no proper consultation with the music industry took place. It was taken unawares and the new requirement has had a major impact on major summer music festivals such as Glastonbury, Edinburgh, Glyndebourne, Reading and Leeds. Is this the hostile environment we can now expect for all artists—whether they are EU citizens or not—if Brexit takes place? Is the Home Office now dictating our cultural and creative exchanges?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I hope the noble Lord could concede that it is not hostile; it is quite the opposite. There has been a change in how the tier 5 route is implemented when individuals enter the UK, particularly from Ireland. Because there are no routine immigration controls on these routes, the correct form of entry clearance cannot be given and the certificates of sponsorship therefore cannot be activated. It has nothing to do with exit from the EU. Work is well under way to identify a workaround for the tier 5 concession route when entering the UK from Ireland to avoid the requirement to obtain a visa before arrival. I hope that gives the noble Lord some comfort.

Lord Watts (Labour): My Lords, the music industry is very concerned about the ability of many artists and bands to move around Europe—if we leave the EU—fairly freely, with little bureaucracy. What will the Government do to make sure those artists are still allowed to ply their trade as they are at present?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the UK, more than perhaps many countries, absolutely welcomes the creative industries. We want artists to come here and to be able to perform. It is the reason why, as I tell the noble Lord, we are looking at how to work around this issue. It is a result not of border control but of no immigration controls on these routes, and we are therefore trying to work around it. It is nothing to do with Brexit.

Lord Foster of Bath (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it is clear more generally that the rules around writers, artists and musicians coming to the United Kingdom are complex, opaque, very costly and damaging to our reputation as a cultural hub. Having abolished the UKVI's arts and entertainment task force, which could have helped resolved these problems, will the Government now at least consider a system of direct contact with UKVI for artists and promoters, or an online update system so that they can check where quicker progress can be made and so that there are fewer errors?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: At the risk of repeating myself—I will take up the noble Lord's point about the UK arts and entertainment committee—we are looking for a way around what is creating problems for these artists. We are in no way trying to restrict their entry; we absolutely welcome them.

Lord Geddes (Conservative): My Lords, what instructions, if any, are given to our embassies and consulates abroad regarding the issuing of visas to these artists?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: What I can do for my noble friend is check up on the advice that is given, but I am sure we are looking around this issue. I am sure that the advice is clear: we do not want artists who enrich our lives and our society to be impeded in any way.

Lord Cashman (Labour): Will the Minister agree to consult with the talent unions such as the Musicians' Union and Equity, which are often consulted on and engaged in the international exchange of talent?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I know that the Government have been engaging with the sector. I shall double-check with the talent unions and if they have not been engaged with I shall make that suggestion.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour): My Lords, the noble Baroness says that we are

working hard to understand this. She is sure that advice is given to our embassies abroad and that we are looking for a way forward. Does she not understand that, while they are working hard to understand it and looking for a way forward, this is having a devastating effect on the cultural life of the country and an impact on the economics? The organisations that are expected to bring artists over, but at the last minute find they are unable to do so, have an economic deficit in their accounts as well. The noble Baroness sounds a bit complacent. I hope she can move with some urgency to resolve this as soon as possible.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am not complacent at all. I recognise completely the value that the entertainment industry gives to society and, of course, the economic value. We are working through a solution that will help those people entering through Ireland. It is predominantly an Irish issue.

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I think the noble Baroness said in an answer to an earlier question that there had been no change in policy since 2008. If that is the case, can she explain why the experience of people organising festivals and of individuals trying to perform at them has changed so dramatically for the worse this year?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said, because of the lack of immigration controls on certain routes from Ireland to the UK, there have been difficulties around the certificates of sponsorship, because there has been no immigration official to hand the certificate to. That is exactly what we are looking at.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-09-13/debates/3533CA4D-7E99-4C8A-AEEC-A985C4DE2963/VisasCertificatesOfSponsorship>

Immigration Policy: Children and Parents

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the implementation of immigration policy has led to the separation of children from their parents.

Reply from the Minister of State Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the family Immigration Rules and the policy on exceptional circumstances provide a clear basis for considering applications to remain in the UK. Individuals with no leave to remain are expected to leave voluntarily. We may enforce their removal if they do not. Our family separation guidance makes clear that staff must consider the best interests of any children, including their needs and caring arrangements, before taking enforcement action.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark: My Lords, how many children are presently separated from their parents or carers in the UK as a result of decisions taken by the immigration authorities to implement the policies of the Government?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am afraid that I cannot provide the noble Lord with that exact detail, as it is not available. However, we have done dip sampling in the cases of 84 foreign national offenders from July 2017 to July 2018, and two family separations were detected. It is not clear whether they were temporary or whether we were seeking to remove one parent from the UK.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the noble Baroness referred to the best interests of the child, no doubt reminding us of Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. What records are kept of the factors considered in applying Section 55 and the convention when the child is separated from his or her parents? Are the records available to the parent and the representative of the child, despite the exception regarding immigration in the recent Data Protection Act?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I just said to the noble Lord, we do not keep official records of the numbers, but the Office of the Children's Commissioner will look at every case where such decisions are considered—the complex cases—so that those interests are weighed before any decisions are taken.

Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour): My Lords, can the Minister clarify that answer, because the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, asked whether records were kept of the considerations taken into account in reaching the decisions? Are they kept or not?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I apologise to the noble Baroness and the noble Lord for not being clear. Clearly, safeguarding records and records of decisions taken are kept. I was trying, in the first instance, to refer back to the question of the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy; I cannot tell the noble Baroness and the noble Lord how many of those decisions were made.

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour): Will the Minister comment on the estimate by BID—Bail for Immigration Detainees—that there are at least 170 cases where children have been separated from their parents as a result of them being detained? Will she also go back to her department to check those figures and perhaps produce a more accurate answer that Members of this House can take on board and inspect?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I understood that the numbers were 155. I do not have the details of the cases but if any noble Lords were to give me details of such cases I would be very happy to take them up. It is, however, important to consider in the round that if children are separated from their parents it is not necessarily for immigration reasons: it may be because of safeguarding issues—a parent is violent and the child needs to be separated from them—or for temporary reasons, such as the illness of the parent.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-09-10/debates/F383F4E6-44B1-401E-A313-E2A6DA52B60E/ImmigrationPolicyChildrenAndParents>

Windrush

Baroness Finn (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that compensation is paid promptly to those affected by the Windrush scandal; and when they intend to publish the review by Sir Alex Allan into the conduct of the Home Office.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the public consultation on the Windrush compensation scheme runs until 11 October. We will announce details of the final scheme and how to apply as soon as possible after the public consultation has ended. The review carried out by Sir Alex Allan was an internal review commissioned by the Permanent Secretary. The Home Secretary is considering whether a redacted version of the report can be published.

Baroness Finn: I am grateful to my noble friend the Minister for her reply. Does she agree that justice for those damaged by the Windrush scandal, as well as the urgent need to restore public trust in the Home Office, require that Sir Alex Allan's report be published without further delay? It is always cover-up that causes the most harm, and full disclosure is now required. My right honourable friend Amber Rudd resigned as a result of what took place. If there is any sense that the Civil Service is closing ranks to protect its own, there could be a serious loss of public confidence.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend makes two very good points, the first being about justice being seen to be served for the Windrush generation, to which my right honourable friend the Home Secretary is utterly committed. To that end, he has asked Wendy Williams to conduct a review and report back by March. I agree with my noble friend, too, that clarity for both our elected officials and unelected officials gives the public confidence in Parliament. The Prime Minister said earlier today:

"I reassure my right hon. Friend that the Home Secretary has been looking at this issue, and the Cabinet Secretary is looking at this. We are committed to publication, but the form of that is currently being considered".

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the action of the Home Office in relation to the Windrush generation may be welcome, but how many others who were legally in this country but without documentation from areas other than the Caribbean have been

similarly wrongly deported or deprived of the means to live in this country? What assurance can the Minister give that the appalling treatment of the Windrush generation has not been repeated in relation to others?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord makes a point that he has made before, and it is a very good one. Certainly, the review being carried out by Wendy Williams will teach us some lessons for the future to ensure that this never happens again. In addition, as I think I mentioned the other day, this issue makes clear the importance now of identity assurance.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean (Labour): My Lords, if the Minister is so committed to getting this out in the open, why will the version of the report that is to be published be redacted?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I cannot second-guess the thinking behind some of the decision-making, but it might be to protect some people's names. However, as I have just said, the Prime Minister has committed to publication, whether in a redacted form or not.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, on the compensation scheme that is out for consultation, has the Home Office considered emergency payments to those who have been treated wrongfully and unfairly? I am thinking particularly of those in hardship.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord brings this up again and it is an important point, because we have heard anecdotal evidence of hardship. The Home Secretary recognises that. His immediate priority has been to help some of those affected to establish their immigration status but also to support people in advance of the compensation scheme being put in place. Where there is an immediate need—he outlined such a case to me the other day—we are supporting people to access housing and benefits and deal with immediate problems while removing immigration obstacles to their finding work. In addition, the noble Lord might want to know that we have signed an agreement with Citizens Advice, which can provide some of the professional bespoke advice that people might need.

Lord West of Spithead (Labour): My Lords, I declare an interest as the son of an Admiralty civil servant. I do not believe for a second that this disaster can be put at the door of civil servants. It lies elsewhere. Generally, civil servants perform in an admirable and loyal way and do as they are told by their political masters.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I hope that I have not conflated the two issues. The disaster of Windrush happened over decades under successive Governments. The Alex Allan review is entirely different, looking into what happened around the time of the former Home Secretary's appearance before HASC.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-09-12/debates/AB3FAA64-1DDC-4616-81FF-EA51ED4022A3/Windrush>

The consultation referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-scheme>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Passports: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10104] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take any action to compensate those British-born children of EU citizens settled in the UK who were turned down for passports following an administrative error.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Passport applications for these children may require additional information to confirm their eligibility, or registration as a British citizen, before a passport can be issued. The applications

remain open while these processes are followed.

There is no charge for registration in these cases and no specific compensation scheme. HM Passport Office compensation policy is detailed on www.Gov.uk

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-05/HL10104/>

White Helmets: Syria

The following three questions all received the same answer

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL9939] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether members of the White Helmets and their families evacuated from Syria via Israel have arrived in the UK.

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL9940] To ask Her Majesty's Government where in the UK members of the White Helmets group evacuated from Syria via Israel (1) have been, and (2) will be settled.

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL9941] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the White Helmets group and their families evacuated from Syria via Israel are now in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Together with international partners, the UK is working to resettle members of the White Helmets and their families. Any resettlement to the UK will be in line with the established UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) process for identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees. Our prime concern for those coming to the UK under our resettlement schemes is their safety and protection as they arrive in this country. We believe that one way to protect their privacy and support their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available.

Notwithstanding this the Home Office is committed to publishing data on arrivals in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9939/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9940/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9941/>

Asylum

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9973] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and (2) refugees of all ages, with close family members in the UK have so far been identified by UK immigration liaison officers sent to France, Italy and Greece; and how many have reached the UK as a result.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The role of the UK liaison officers is to facilitate good working co-operation between EU Member States, including Italy, France and Greece, on asylum and immigration matters with the UK. Liaison officers are not involved in identifying children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, as it is a matter for our partner states to refer children who meet the criteria and where it is in their best interests to transfer to the UK. Liaison officers are not involved in the identification of applicants with qualifying family members either as this is also a matter for the competent national authorities of Dublin states.

On 30 November, the Government published data on the numbers of children transferred to the UK from the Calais camp clearance under both the Dublin III Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. The data can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transfers-of-children-to-the-uk-from-the-calais-operation-november-2017>

On 22 February 2018, the Home Office published data on the number of transfers into the UK from other Dublin states. The relevant statistics can be found at as_22_q, asylum volume 5 at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017-data-tables>

2018 Dublin data will be published in February 2019.

We remain fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and are working very closely with participating States, to deliver the scheme in line with their national laws. Over 220 children are already in the UK and transfers are ongoing. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details once all children are in the UK.

Table - as_22-q Asylum Vol 5

Table - Transfers of Children to the UK-Calais op[

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9973/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10008] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum have accessed exceptional case funding for legal aid in each year since 2012.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: A total of 57 Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) Immigration cases have been granted to applicants under the age of 18 who were described as 'unaccompanied or separated' children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL10008/>

Asylum: English Language

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10007] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they provide to asylum seekers aged 19 or older who are eligible for a 50 per cent contribution to the costs of English language classes through the adult education budget about where they can obtain funding for the remaining 50 per cent.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Home Office policy is not to provide asylum seekers with publicly funded English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. They may access courses on a fee-paying basis. Asylum claimants awaiting a decision for over six months are eligible for a 50% contribution to the cost of ESOL courses through the Adult Education Budget. We also know that many ESOL providers use their discretion to set lower fees.

Those granted refugee status by the Home Office and in receipt of certain work-related benefits are eligible for fully funded ESOL courses.

We encourage asylum claimants (adults and dependants of an adult asylum seeker) to contact the Asylum Help helpline for free and independent advice (telephone: 0808 8000 630, <https://www.gov.uk/asylum-helplines>).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL10007/>

Asylum: Compensation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10103] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to compensate the 17 people who received decisions from the Home Office last year on asylum claims that they had submitted more than 15 years ago.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In response to a recent Freedom of

Information request, the Home Office provided figures which noted that, in 2017, 17 decisions were made on claims for asylum that had been submitted more than 15 years ago. In the majority of these cases, whilst the Home Office database that registered the original claim for asylum was updated with a new outcome in 2017, the Home Office had also made an earlier decision on the asylum claim. For example, several of the entries made in 2017 were to update records where it had been identified that an individual had voluntarily left the United Kingdom at an earlier date. In other instances, new decisions were made on cases where individuals had previously lost contact with the Home Office.

UK Visas and Immigration has a formal complaints procedure for customers who are unhappy with the service that it provides. Under this procedure ex-gratia payments may be made in cases where it is found that maladministration has occurred.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-05/HL10103/>

Asylum: LGBT People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL10208] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that LGBT people seeking asylum, who have experienced torture and forms of violence that may be difficult to disclose, have access to legal representatives who are allowed time and capacity to obtain the requisite evidence.

Asylum: Females

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL10209] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that women seeking asylum, who have experienced forms of violence which may be difficult to disclose, have access to legal representatives who are allowed the time and capacity to obtain the requisite evidence.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All asylum claimants have the opportunity to be legally represented during their asylum claim, and legal aid funding is provided to those who need it.

In addition, Migrant Help is funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Home Office to provide independent advice and guidance to assist those considering seeking asylum and those that have claimed asylum to move through and understand the asylum process. Migrant Help also run an asylum helpline and provide advice in a language that the asylum seeker speaks, that is free and accessible to all asylum seekers. This includes support for claimants who are seeking legal advice.

All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information, which covers country specific issues relating to torture, gender based harm, including female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual exploitation, violence in conflict, domestic violence and those subject to violence relating to LGBT persecution. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-10/HL10208/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-10/HL10209/>

Asylum: Sri Lanka

Lord Naseby (Conservative) [HL9991] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Sri Lankans (1) applied for asylum, and (2) had applications approved in each year since 2008, broken down by ethnicity.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications and initial decisions, broken down by nationality, in table as_01_q (volume 1 of the asylum tables) in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* publication. The latest figures, up until June 2018, are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018>

Data on ethnicity are not available.

Table 1: Asylum applications, initial decision, and grants on asylum applications from Sri Lankan nationals, 2008 to June 2018

Year	Total applications	Total initial decisions	Total grants
2008	1,473	874	206
2009	1,115	1,251	190
2010	1,357	1,612	228
2011	1,756	1,604	323
2012	1,744	1,384	333
2013	1,811	1,287	262
2014	1,292	1,217	157
2015	961	1,537	179
2016	845	731	44
2017	690	645	49
2018 (Jan-Jun)	261	302	22

1. Grants include grants of asylum, discretionary leave, humanitarian protection, and grants under family and private life rules.

2. Decisions made in a given year does not necessarily relate to the number of applications in the same year. Applications are based on the date of application and decisions are based on the date of initial decision.

3. Data include main applicants only.

4. Data for 2018 include 6 months of data only (Jan-Jun). This is the latest period that is publically available.

[Table as_01_q \(Vol 1 - Asylum Table\)](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9991/>

Asylum: Yemen

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10105] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of asylum decisions concerning people from Yemen that have been overturned on appeal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

Appeals are allowed for a variety of reasons, often because of new evidence presented before the tribunal which was not available to the decision maker at the time.

However, all allowed appeals are reviewed to understand where there are opportunities to further improve guidance and training.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-05/HL10105/>

Human Trafficking

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL9942] To ask Her Majesty's Government

when they will issue new guidance following the case of PK(Ghana) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2018] EWCA Civ 98.

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL9943] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have issued instructions for officials to delay consideration of discretionary leave for victims of trafficking until they consider the Court of Appeal judgment in PK(Ghana) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2018] EWCA Civ 98.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Following the judgment in PK(Ghana) officials were instructed to temporarily defer most decisions on whether to grant discretionary leave to remain to trafficking victims. This was to enable new guidance to be prepared that would take account of the findings of the Court. Grants of discretionary leave continued to be made if it was found that a grant was necessary to enable a trafficking victim to seek compensation through the courts or to assist the police with a criminal investigation or prosecution. Victims also continued to be granted leave if they qualified for refugee status or under other provisions in the Immigration Rules.

The new guidance was published on 8 August 2018 and normal decision making has therefore resumed. The guidance is available on the GOV.UK web-pages at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732594/dl-for-victims-of-modern-slavery-v1.0ext.pdf

dl - for victims of Modern Slavery

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9942/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-09-04/HL9943/>

The judgement in the case referred to above can be read at

<http://www.bailii.org/cgi-bin/format.cgi?doc=/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2018/98.html>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Hannah Bardell (SNP) (1591): Deportation of Kweku Adoboli – That this House notes with concern the Home Office's decision to deport Kweku Adoboli from the UK; recognises that Kweku has lived in the UK since he was 12 years old and has worked and resided in the country for the last 26 years; further notes the good work that Kweku has done in his community working with students, the Special Forces Leadership Programme and with several organisations to improve their corporate governance and compliance within the financial industry; and calls on the Government to reconsider its decision seeking to deport Kweku from the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1591>

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) (1630): Kweku Adoboli – That this House knows of no proper purpose or value in deporting Kweku Adoboli; recognises that he was last ordinarily resident in Ghana aged four; notes that he has been resident in the UK since he was 12; and calls on Ministers to halt the deportation, to meet his supporters and to allow him to continue living in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1630>

UK Parliament Petition

Asylum decisions

The petition of residents of the United Kingdom, Declares that the current government policy which states that initial asylum decisions “will be usually decided within six months” has not been followed in many cases, with some people waiting years without

being able to work, choose where to live or move forward with their lives; further that in 2017, almost half of all asylum claimants waited six months for their initial decisions; and further that, this leaves many people in a state of uncertainty regarding their future, affecting their health, mental health, careers, education, and their financial situation as evidenced in the report, “The Waiting Game” produced by Refugee and Asylum Seeker (RAS) Voice, a group of people seeking asylum living in Manchester.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to follow its guidelines and ensure initial asylum decisions are made within six months, failing this, the Government should ensure that claimants are informed of the reasons behind any delay. ... [P002252]

Observations from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): In considering the request to urge the Government to follow its guidelines and ensure initial asylum decisions are made within six months, and failing this, the Government should ensure that claimants are informed of the reasons behind any delay, the Government have noted the concerns of the residents of the United Kingdom about this issue.

The Government have a Service Standard to make an initial asylum decision on 98% of straightforward claims within six months of the date of claim, this target was met for 40 consecutive months. However, there are a number of older cases, mostly non-straightforward cases that require a decision, many of which have a barrier that needs to be overcome in order to be able to make a decision—many of these barriers are outside of the Home Office’s control and take time to resolve. The Government acknowledge that there is more to do to resolve these older cases and have reprioritised case working teams to speed up decision making for these cases.

In the Government’s response to the Chief Inspector’s report in November last year, we accepted his recommendation to review the guidance and process in respect of non-straightforward claims and we also committed to reviewing our approach to service standards.

The Government also acknowledged the Chief Inspector’s concern around the rising vacancies in asylum decision making teams and pressure that this, and having a relatively high proportion of new staff, may place on progressing cases within service standards. We continue to recruit and train decision makers and are working on a range of measures to improve retention rates.

The Government appreciate that some people in the asylum process may be under emotional pressure, particularly while awaiting a decision on their asylum claim. We provide information to asylum claimants throughout the process, including signposting to any support they may require. All asylum claimants are provided with a comprehensive leaflet that sets out what to expect at the asylum interview, the possible outcomes of the asylum claim, how to obtain legal advice to support their claim, details of support organisations that might be relevant, rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers, and information about asylum support and how to apply. The Government continue to work with non-government organisations to improve the information provided to asylum claimants, including on how to keep claimants updated on the progress of their claim.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-13/debates/18091330000015/AsylumDecisions>

Press Releases

New form of leave for children transferred during Calais clearance to join family

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-form-of-leave-for-children-transferred-during-calais-clearance-to-join-family>

State of the Union 2018: New Commission proposal for a reinforced EU Asylum Agency

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/state-union-2018-new-commission-proposal-reinforced-eu-asylum-agency>

New Publications

Impact of international students in the UK

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739089/Impact_intl_students_report_published_v1.1.pdf

Immigration detention in the UK: an overview

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7294/CBP-7294.pdf>

News

Nicola Sturgeon backs bid to keep teenage asylum seekers in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/glasgow-strathclyde/nicola-sturgeon-backs-bid-to-keep-teenage-asylum-seekers-in-scotland-1-4799531>

Scots ministers find out about migrant worker visa scheme to help fruit farms on news website

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16693731.scots-ministers-find-out-about-migrant-worker-visa-scheme-to-help-fruit-farms-on-news-website/?ref=mr&lp=12>

Concerns raised over 59-page handbook on Brexit 'settled status' scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/04/concerns-raised-over-59-page-handbook-on-brexit-settled-status-scheme>

NHS bill for hiring non-UK staff could hit £500m post-Brexit, say doctors

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/sep/05/nhs-bill-for-hiring-non-uk-staff-could-hit-500m-post-brexit-say-doctors>

Home Office 'breaking law' to expel highly skilled migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/14/home-office-breaking-law-to-expel-highly-skilled-migrants>

Home Office loses 75% of its appeals against immigration rulings

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/03/inhumane-three-quarters-of-home-office-asylum-appeals-fail>

Home Office backed 'slave labour' pay for immigration detainees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/04/home-office-pay-immigration-detainees-menial-jobs-legal-action>

Suicides in immigration detention centres kept 'state secret' by Home Office, MPs told

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-detention-centres-uk-suicides-prison-deaths-home-office-a8533366.html>

More than 100 pregnant women detained in UK removal centres since major review called for ban

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pregnant-women-immigration-removal-centres-ban-two-years-home-office-a8530866.html>

UK's asylum dispersal system close to 'catastrophic failure'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/06/uk-asylum-dispersal-system-failure-letter-council-leaders>

Government pledge to give Calais children right to remain in UK branded 'unfair and arbitrary'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calais-jungle-children-refugees-immigration-status-uk-caroline-nokes-a8536201.html>

UK offers 'Calais leave' to children denied asylum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/13/uk-offers-calais-leave-to-children-denied-asylum>

Windrush victims still prevented from working, officials told

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/06/windrush-victims-still-prevented-from-working-officials-told>

'It takes so long': delays in resolving Windrush cases criticised

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/12/it-takes-so-long-delays-in-resolving-windrush-cases-criticised>

Families of three dead Windrush victims can claim compensation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/04/families-of-three-dead-windrush-victims-can-claim-compensation>

'My life is in ruins': wrongly deported Windrush people facing fresh indignity

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/10/windrush-people-wrongly-deported-jamaica-criminal-offence>

Immigration detainees challenge £1 an hour wages

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-detainees-challenge-1-an-hour-wages-j27w9l3z0>

Overseas students should 'stay in migration target'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-45483366>

Appeal to keep international students in NI

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-45489880>

Bring back work visas for overseas graduates, say UK universities

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/04/bring-back-work-visas-overseas-graduates-say-uk-universities>

Overseas students need easier migration rules, universities minister Sam Gyimah urges

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-06/news/overseas-students-need-easier-migration-rules-universities-minister-sam-gyimah-urges-tds0lct52>

Relax rules on foreign students staying to find work in UK, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/11/international-students-report-migration-advisory-committee-jobs-uk>

Keeping international students in 'arbitrary' immigration target is wrong decision, say British firms

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/immigration-target-statistics-remove-foreign-students-migration-advisory-committee-a8533096.html>

Give overseas students more time to find work, May is urged

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-12/news/give-overseas-students-more-time-to-find-work-may-urged-9bcjptl9n>

Diane Abbott unveils Labour's new immigration policy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-45510623>

Foolish visa rules will impoverish Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/foolish-visa-rules-will-impoverish-britain-hmppji6cv>

Asylum seekers at breaking point as trauma takes its toll on mental health

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/insight-asylum-seekers-at-breaking-point-as-trauma-takes-its-toll-on-mental-health-1-4797120>

'Invaders' daubed on Liverpool List refugee memorial

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-45458665>

Liverpool mayor condemns 'fascist thugs' for vandalism of refugee memorial

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/08/liverpool-mayor-condemns-fascist-thugs-for-vandalism-of-refugee-memorial>

Liverpool mayor condemns 'fascist thugs' who vandalised memorial to dead migrants and refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/liverpool-memorial-dead-refugees-vandalised-spray-invaders-fascist-thugs-a8529026.html>

Man refused UK visa to visit newborn grandson because he did not send photo of 1975 wedding

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-visa-wedding-photo-russian-grandson-refused-home-office-marriage-eea-family-permit-a8537946.html>

Man faces ejection from UK despite serving time and being described as 'very low risk'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/man-faces-ejection-from-uk-despite-serving-time-and-being-described-as-very-low-risk-1-4797907>

Kweku Adoboli: 'I don't deserve to be banished for this'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kweku-adoboli-i-dont-deserve-to-be-banished-for-this-izmsfdmrg>

'Rogue trader' appeals to May and Javid to 'show compassion'

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/sep/07/rogue-trader-appeals-to-may-and-javid-to-show-compassion>

Deportation of ex-trader who helped MoD is wrong, says MP

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-06/scotland/deportation-of-ex-trader-who-helped-mod-is-wrong-says-mp-j706hd2tn>

UBS 'rogue trader' moved to Heathrow removal centre

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/sep/12/ubs-rogue-trader-kweku-adoboli-moved-to-heathrow-removal-centre>

'I fear for my life': UK urged not to deport Zimbabwean activist

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/10/i-fear-for-my-life-uk-urged-not-to-deport-zimbabwean-activist>

From darkness to the light: Syrian families find peace in rural England

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/sep/07/from-darkness-to-the-light-syrian-families-find-peace-in-rural-england>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Debate

Gypsies and Travellers

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-10/debates/68763C76-2B43-4E6C-8DC0-0420571EDB95/GypsiesAndTravellers>

News

Is it time to ditch the term BAME?

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/bame-ethnic-minorities-race-identity-politics-windrush-uk-a8504961.html

Christian and Muslim women walk together in Glasgow

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-45488994/christian-and-muslim-women-walk-together-in-glasgow>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Scottish Government: Ethnicity

S5W-18381 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-16551 by Jamie Hepburn on 17 May 2018, whether it has undertaken an analysis of application and appointment rates according to ethnicity for positions within the Scottish Government.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Currently, analysis is carried out for specific recruitment campaigns rather than for recruitment to all positions in the Scottish Government. For example, an analysis of ethnicity was completed for the recent external B Band recruitment campaign which attracted 4444 applications. This analysis indicates that ethnic minority applicants had a 3.1% chance of being offered a place and white candidates had a 3.7% chance. The Scottish Government is committed to improving the diversity of the Scottish Government workforce as part of the Public Sector Equality Duty regulations. Our current systems only provide a snapshot of the recruitment process and not a picture of the full hiring process. Further improvements to the reporting and analysis of recruitment information into the Scottish Government will be made as part of the Equality Outcome and Mainstreaming Report, which will be published in April 2019.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18381>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16551>

Race Equality

S5W-18205 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recommendation in the report, Addressing Race Equality: The Way Forward, by its Independent Race Equality Adviser, what consideration it has given to instructing Directors of Service to review previous initiatives that are relevant to delivering race

equality with a view to identifying blockages to implementation and learning lessons from them.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Race Equality Action Plan Programme Board was established to oversee the implementation of the Race Equality Action Plan. The first meeting of the Programme Board was held on 22 August 2018, attended by the Independent Race Equality Advisor. At the first meeting Paul Johnston, Director-General Education, Communities and Justice, and Chair of the Programme Board, instructed Directors to share learning from successful and unsuccessful initiatives and apply this learning to work in their own areas. It was also advised that initiatives should focus on understanding and measuring impact not just outcomes for determining success.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18205>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528756.pdf>

Independent Race Equality Adviser

S5W-18206 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the term of its Independent Race Equality Adviser ends, and whether it will appoint a new adviser or reappoint the current one.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The term of the Independent Race Equality Adviser ends on 31 October 2018. Consideration will be given by the Race Equality Action Plan Programme Board to the appointment of another Adviser.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18206>

Independent Race Equality Adviser

S5W-18207 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it last met its Independent Race Equality Adviser, and what was discussed.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The last meeting with the Independent Race Equality Adviser was the Race Equality Action Plan Programme Board meeting on 22 August 2018. The discussion was around the progress being made on the actions in the Race Equality Action Plan.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18207>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [169029] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Prime Minister's speech, Together, let's make a difference, delivered on 18 October 2018, what progress the Government has made on improving representation of people from BAME backgrounds in the civil service.

Reply from David Lidington: The Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy published in October 2017 included a commitment to increase the representation of ethnic minority staff in the Civil Service workforce. In June 2017 we published a Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion data dashboard

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-diversity-inclusion-dashboard>

Latest figures (March 2018) show ethnic minority representation in the Civil Service has risen to 12.0% which is broadly representative of the UK working population (12.8%).

Ethnic minority representation in the Senior Civil Service (SCS) also reached its highest level to date at 5.2%. We are committed to improving this and have

published targets to increase the progression of ethnic minority staff into the SCS. To drive delivery of the targets we have established an Ethnic Diversity Programme to build a sustainable talent pipeline to the SCS. The Programme also supports the new Diverse Leadership Taskforce to increase diversity amongst our most senior leaders.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-08-08/169029/>

Press Releases

Promoting equality

<https://news.gov.scot/news/promoting-equality>

Equality Commission reports on progress towards socio-economic equality

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-commission-reports-progress-towards-socio-economic-equality>

New Publications

Fairer Scotland Duty: Socio-economic requirements research report

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/socio-economic_requirements_full_report_v1.pdf

The Wellbeing of LGBT+ Pupils: A Guide for Orthodox Jewish Schools

<https://chiefrabbi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/The-Wellbeing-of-LGBT-Pupils-A-Guide-for-Orthodox-Jewish-Schools.pdf>

News

Public services duty equality law 'is making little impact'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-11/scotland/public-services-duty-equality-law-is-making-little-impact-mzc30r6qh>

UK universities making slow progress on equality, data shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/07/uk-university-professors-black-minority-ethnic>

Senior BAME doctors paid less by the NHS than their white colleagues, analysis finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-consultants-pay-gap-black-asian-racism-seniority-bmj-nuffield-a8524386.html>

Chief Rabbi publishes first LGBT guide for orthodox schools

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-45435583>

Jewish schools told to protect LBGT pupils

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-06/news/jewish-schools-told-to-protect-lbgt-pupils-q8d9vwt8t>

Mastermind seeks more gay, black and female guests

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-11/news/mastermind-seeks-more-gay-black-and-female-guests-s0jqd3755>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Guru Nanak Gurdwara Edinburgh (Attack)

Kezia Dugdale (Labour): Last week, there was a petrol-bomb attack on Edinburgh's gurdwara. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but there was considerable smoke damage and there is no doubt that the attack has left people feeling fearful, upset and alarmed.

The multicultural and diverse community of Leith has rallied in support. I ask the First Minister what her Government can and will do to allay the fears of the Sikh community, to crack down on all crimes that are fuelled by hate and to promote a culture of inclusion and respect.

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Everything that we do, not just as a Government but right across the Parliament and our country, should ensure that everybody, regardless of their faith, race, background or culture, feels safe and secure in Scotland. It is incumbent on all of us that we have zero tolerance of any attack on any person that is motivated by hatred of that person's faith or race.

Last week, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government engaged with the Sikh community to try to allay its understandable concerns. We will continue to do that.

As we announced in the programme for government, we are about to undertake a review of hate crime law. That is a welcome opportunity to consider whether further protections are necessary.

I know the impact that attacks like the reprehensible attack that Kezia Dugdale has raised have on communities. There is more than one gurdwara in my constituency; they were impacted by what happened in Edinburgh.

It is important that we all stand in solidarity and side by side with all the wonderful communities that make up our wonderfully diverse country.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11643&i=105533#ScotParlOR>

Orange Order Marches

John Mason (SNP): The First Minister may be aware of the incident that allegedly happened at St Alphonsus RC church in my constituency, stemming from an Orange order march. There can be more than 200 such marches in a year. Does the First Minister agree that restrictions are needed on the number and routes of such marches?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): First, I was appalled—as, I am sure, was everyone across the chamber—by the incident that took place outside St Alphonsus church. Absolutely nobody should ever be a target of hatred because of their faith. The Scottish Government will always be very clear about that in our responses.

I understand the concerns that have been raised and which John Mason has reflected in the chamber. Responsibility for regulation of marches and parades rests with local authorities, and it is important that they work with Police Scotland, because they are best placed to make decisions that balance the rights of people to march with—very importantly—the rights of others in our communities.

We always encourage action that brings the different parties involved together to try to find constructive ways forward.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11643&i=105532#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate Crime Campaigns

S5W-18380 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for upcoming hate crime campaigns, and whether it will set out what focus these will have outwith raising awareness.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: Within our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan we committed to develop a public awareness campaign and in October 2017 we ran our 'Hate Has No Home in Scotland' campaign. The campaign aimed to raise awareness of what hate crime is and encourage both victims and witnesses to report it.

Building on the success of this campaign we will launch a further campaign later this year which will aim to encourage witnesses of hate crime to report, and provide reassurance that the police will take action.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18380>

Hate crime reporting

S5W-18356 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the Police Scotland online hate crime reporting form should contain an option to allow "online" to be recorded as a location for incidents.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Police Scotland is currently looking to streamline and improve the online reporting form which may, in future, consider 'online' as an option for recording the location for incidents. We will continue to work closely with Police Scotland as we work to tackle hate crime and prejudice which includes developing our approach to gathering evidence around hate crime.

We will publish a new report later this year which will include information on hate related incidents with a race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity element.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-18356>

UK Parliament Debate

Anti-Semitism

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-09-13/debates/51BBA437-4683-4341-9469-1978445FB343/Anti-Semitism>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Islamophobia

Sandy Martin (Labour): What steps the Government are taking to tackle Islamophobia. [906880]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Nigel Adams): Let me be clear; the Government deplore hate crime, and we are determined to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get on in life free from harassment and fear. We are strengthening the cross-Government working group on anti-Muslim hatred. My Department and the Home Office fund Tell MAMA, which is the leading service for recording anti-Muslim incidents and supporting victims.

Sandy Martin: What discussions has the Minister had with social media companies about improving the way in which they take down anti-Muslim and Islamophobic hate crime messages from their platforms?

Reply from Nigel Adams: The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right: it is important that we continue dialogue with social media companies. Across Government, colleagues are already having such discussions with social media companies, and it is important that anything that incites hatred is taken down immediately. I hope that the social media companies are listening.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-13/debates/FDB62218-5FE8-4175-A99B-8C4EF5F33E0B/Islamophobia>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Laura Smith (Labour) [169781] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what measures have been put in place for schools to deal with racist incidents.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Racism has no place in our schools and any incident is unacceptable.

In July 2017 the Department updated its anti-bullying guidance. This guidance makes it clear that where a school thinks an incident might constitute an offence, they should seek assistance from the police. All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which sets expectations of behaviour and outlines measures to prevent all forms of bullying, including racist bullying. Schools have the freedom to develop their own anti-bullying strategies appropriate to their environment but are held to account by Ofsted. The anti-bullying guidance refers schools to sources of support on preventing and tackling bullying based on race, religion and nationality. This guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>.

The Department funds and supports anti-bullying organisations that help schools prevent and tackle bullying. This includes the Free to Be project led by the Anne Frank Trust, which provides a structured approach for young people to discuss the importance of tackling prejudice, discrimination and bullying.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169781/>

Social Media: Bullying

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [169448] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what discussions he has had with representatives of social media providers on tackling online (a) misogynistic, (b) racist, (c) homophobic and transphobic abuse.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Since 2011 the cross-government hate crime programme has included work with Internet Service Providers and key stakeholders to deal with online abuse including misogynistic, racist, homophobic and transphobic abuse.

This work has largely been led by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for combating Anti-Semitism, and latterly by the EU High Level Group on internet abuse. They have worked with key internet service providers including Facebook, Google, Twitter and Microsoft on a code to take down illegal content within 24 hours.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-08-31/169448/>

New Publications

Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 resources

Theme: Torn from Home

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

Postcard Project: includes lesson plans for primary and secondary schools, and teacher information sheets

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day-2019-postcard-project/>

Other resources including life stories of victims of the Holocaust and other genocides, activities for schools, and teacher information packs

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

News

Labour adopts IHRA antisemitism definition in full

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/04/labour-adopts-ihra-antisemitism-definition-in-full>

Ex SNP councillor fined after sending racist texts to Muslim lover

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/ex-snp-councillor-fined-after-sending-racist-texts-to-muslim-lover-1-4798108>

Muslim Council insists evangelical preacher be denied UK visa

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/09/muslim-council-insists-evangelical-preacher-franklin-graham-be-denied-uk-visa>

Jolene Bunting mocked Famine and insulted Islam, watchdog is told

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jolene-bunting-mocked-famine-and-insulted-islam-watchdog-is-told-9pxvn79q3>

Gypsy pupils experience bullying and racism, MPs told

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-45498034>

Met racism inquiry after officer said 'whiter than white'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/met-racism-inquiry-after-officer-said-whiter-than-white-khfqtjxz>

Why the way we spell antisemitism is as important as how we define it

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-05/news/why-the-way-we-spell-antisemitism-is-as-important-as-how-we-define-it-0j3txpc02>

Pay-off for Scout leader expelled for making 'Darth Vader' veil remark

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/pay-off-for-scout-leader-expelled-for-making-darth-vader-veil-remark-292tbnzdg>

School discriminated against Rastafarian boy by telling him to cut his dreadlocks

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/school-discriminated-against-rastafarian-boy-telling-him-cut-his-dreadlocks>

London school that told boy to cut off dreadlocks backs down

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/12/london-school-that-told-boy-to-cut-off-dreadlocks-backs-down>

Schools may no longer ban pupils from having dreadlocks, after Rastafarian boy has ban overturned

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2018/09/12/schools-may-no-longer-ban-pupils-having-dreadlocks-rastafarian/>

I converted to Judaism when I married — and discovered what antisemitism feels like
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-06/times2/i-converted-to-judaism-when-i-married-and-discovered-what-antisemitism-feels-like-l5mmvxj63>

England in black and white to mark Kick It Out anniversary
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-45484574>

Rugby team at top private school ‘sang pro-IRA chant’
<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/glasgow-strathclyde/rugby-team-at-top-private-school-sang-pro-ira-chant-1-4799185>

St Aloysius College rugby team ‘sang pro-IRA chant’ after win
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/st-alloysius-college-rugby-team-sang-pro-ira-chant-after-win-jslt3nqqz>

Bodyguard writer Jed Mercurio rejects Islamophobia accusations
<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/bodyguard-bbc-jed-mercurio-islamophobia-accusation-muslim-hijab-a8532376.html>

Islamophobia row over Bodyguard
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-11/news/islamophobia-row-over-bodyguard-dbn285nhh>

Is the Herald Sun’s cartoon of Serena Williams racist?
<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/tennis/is-the-herald-sun-s-cartoon-of-serena-williams-racist-1-4799327>

Serena Williams: Herald Sun reprints 'racist' cartoon in front-page attack on 'political correctness'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/serena-williams-racist-cartoon-herald-sun-us-open-mark-knight-a8533926.html>

JK Rowling condemns 'racist and sexist' cartoon of Serena Williams at US Open
<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/news/jk-rowling-twitter-serena-williams-cartoon-us-open-racist-sexist-a8531941.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

First Minister’s message: Islamic New Year
<https://firstminister.gov.scot/islamic-new-year-2/>

Jewish New Year message from the First Minister
<https://firstminister.gov.scot/jewish-new-year-message-from-the-first-minister/>

New Publications

How the Scottish Parliament works: There shall be a Scottish Parliament – Laws
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=16&v=Rm6O8xsNXRw

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Forced Marriage: Convictions

David TC Davies (Conservative) [169911] To ask the Secretary of State Justice, how many people have been convicted of offences relating to forced marriage in the last three years.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The number of defendants prosecuted and convicted of offences relating to forced marriage, from 2015-2017, can be found at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733981/outcomes-by-offence-tool-2017-update.xlsx

Search 'Offence' for '36.1 Forced marriage' and '66.6 Breach of a forced marriage protection order'. Figures for 2018 are planned for publication in May 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169911/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Convictions

David TC Davies (Conservative) [169221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been convicted of offences relating to FGM in the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls.

To date, there have been no convictions for FGM.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the police have highlighted that barriers to prosecution include a lack of referrals to the police, a lack of information from affected communities, and the age and vulnerability of victims. The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a number of measures to help overcome these, including: a new mandatory reporting duty for known cases of FGM in under-18s; extended extra-territorial jurisdiction over FGM offences committed abroad; lifelong anonymity for victims; FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs), and a new offence of failure to protect a girl from the risk of FGM.

In addition, lead FGM prosecutors have been appointed, and the police and CPS have put in place joint FGM investigation and prosecution protocols. Border Force, the police and other agencies regularly carry out joint operations at the border to raise awareness of practices such as FGM to identify and protect potential victims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169221/>

Religion: Education

William Wragg (Conservative) [172514] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent steps his Department has taken to ensure that all state-funded schools are meeting their statutory obligation to teach religious education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Good quality religious education can develop children's knowledge of the values and traditions of Britain and other countries, and foster understanding among different faiths and cultures. That is why religious education remains compulsory for all state funded schools, including academies and free schools, at all key stages.

The Department does not routinely monitor schools to ensure that they meet their statutory duties, but when made aware that schools are not fulfilling their legal duties, it will investigate.

All schools are expected to publish their curriculum by subject for each academic year on their websites. Guidance on this makes specific reference to religious education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172514/>

Religion: Teachers

William Wragg (Conservative) [172515] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the quality of initial and continuing teacher training in religious education for primary school teachers.

Reply from Nick Gibb: It is for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers to determine the content and structure of courses, but they must be designed so that trainees can demonstrate that they meet all Teachers' Standards to an appropriate level. To be awarded Qualified Teacher Status trainees must "have a secure knowledge of the relevant subject(s) and curriculum areas" and "demonstrate a critical understanding of developments in the subject and curriculum areas." This includes Religious Education for primary school teachers. Ofsted inspects ITT programmes for compliance against the ITT Criteria, and for the quality of ITT teaching and trainee outcomes. At the end of June 2017 99% of all ITT partnerships inspected by Ofsted were judged either good or outstanding. In the 2017 Newly Qualified Teacher Survey, more than 80% of newly-qualified teachers surveyed rated the overall quality of their training as 7-10 out of 10, with 32% rating it as 9-10 out of 10. The full ITT Criteria can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria>.

Once qualified, decisions relating to teachers' professional development rest with schools, head teachers, and teachers themselves, as they are in the best position to judge their own requirements.

The Government has a number of initiatives to ensure that all teachers have access to high-quality professional development.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172515/>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [170820] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether it is Departmental practice not to use the term ritual slaughter when discussing shechita and halal slaughtering process.

Reply from George Eustice: The Department refers to the term 'slaughtered by religious rite', as this is the terminology used in the relevant legislation. This may be shortened to 'religious slaughter'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-05/170820/>

Poultry: Animal Welfare

The following five questions all received the same answer

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [170283] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food

and Rural Affairs, how many and what proportion of slaughterhouses in the UK are not compliant with the European Union regulation EC 1099/2009 Annex I on stunning poultry in electric water baths.

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [170284] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of electric waterbaths for stunning poultry that use frequencies outside of the parameters set out in Annex 1 of EC 1099/2009.

Slaughterhouses: Animal Welfare

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [170285] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food

and Rural Affairs, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require post-cut stunning for animals that are slaughtered without being pre-stunned.

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [170286] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that the volume supply of non-stun meat meets only the domestic demand of the communities that want to eat it.

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [170287] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 20 April 2018 to Questions 133445, 133447 and 133449, on Ritual Slaughter, when his Department plans to publish the results of the Food Standards Authority survey of slaughterhouses and the Halal market; and whether survey includes the amount of non-stun meat exported from the UK.

Reply from George Eustice: The information that we have received from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) suggests that currently 3 out of the 50 poultry plants in England and Wales are using non Annex 1 water bath stunning parameters for religious slaughter.

Defra and the Welsh Government commissioned the FSA to carry out a survey on our behalf on how animals are sourced, slaughtered and then distributed in England and Wales. We hope to publish the results of that survey shortly. Any further reforms in this area will be considered in light of the FSA survey.

Where stunning is carried out, including for religious slaughter, it must be effective in rendering the animal unconscious and insensible to pain and the animal must remain unconscious and insensible to pain until death. Where animals are not stunned correctly the FSA will take appropriate action to prevent animals from suffering. The legislation in England permits religious slaughter to be carried out by a Muslim or Jewish person for the food of Muslim or Jewish people respectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170283/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170284/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170285/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170286/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170287/>

Government Departments: Meat

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [167361] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether Government procurement policies permit for non-stun meat to be procured by government departments for consumption on government premises.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering require central government procurers directly, or through their catering contractors, to apply the mandatory animal welfare standards.

GBSF require meat that is served, whether produced in the UK or elsewhere, to be compliant with UK law on standards of production such as the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (England) Regulations. The Government would prefer to see all animals stunned before they are slaughtered for food. However, we also respect the rights of the Jewish and Muslim communities to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-23/167361/>

Meat: Imports

The following two questions both received the same answer

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru [167362]) To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the UK imports any non-stun (a) meat and (b) meat products.

Meat: Exports

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [167363] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government will be permitting the export of non-stun meat as part of its recently announced trade deal with Saudi Arabia.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government does not hold information on method of slaughter for imports as certification of religious slaughter is provided directly between importers and exporters. Religious slaughter can either be stun or non-stun and must comply with EU and England rules on animal welfare.

Earlier this year Saudi Arabia lifted disease restrictions on lamb imports from the UK, re-opening that market for UK businesses. Saudi Arabian authorities require lamb imports to be accompanied by a halal certificate issued by an authorised body. Meat from animals stunned at slaughter can be certified as halal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-23/167362/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-23/167363/>

Press Release

Foreign Secretary: Message for Rosh Hashanah

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-message-for-rosh-hashanah>

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Other News

UK schoolgirls pressured into FGM, campaigner says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45442795>

Marriage age could rise to 18 in bid to prevent forced weddings abroad

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-06/news/marriage-age-could-rise-to-18-in-bid-to-prevent-forced-weddings-abroad-tnhwgkbrt>

Allowing children to marry brings shame on Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-09-07/comment/allowing-children-to-marry-brings-shame-on-britain-chvpfh05r>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

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>

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

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>

**** Online Forums Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-09-11/debates/BC2267F0-86BB-4746-B822-D6D8A55F31BF/OnlineForums>

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!**

A Culture Strategy for Scotland (closing date 19 September 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/culture-tourism-and-major-events/culture-strategy/>

**** A re-inspection of the Home Office's application of the good character requirement** (closing date 4 October 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-a-re-inspection-of-the-home-offices-application-of-the-good-character-requirement>

Windrush compensation scheme (closing date 11 October 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-scheme>

**** Impact of Brexit negotiations on Scotland** (closing date 12 October 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/109633.aspx>

Windrush: lessons learned review (closing date 19 October 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Year of Young People

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed. Year of Young People 2018 celebrates everything that makes Scotland's young people incredible. As a nation proud of our young people, the Year of Young People puts the spotlight on the contributions and achievements of eight to 26 year olds, while giving them a stronger voice on issues that matter to them, and aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally and on a global-stage.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyp-grant-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyp-application-form.docx>

Scotland's Winter Festivals, and St Andrew's Fair Saturday

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay, and Burns celebrations, boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Bullying – It's never acceptable

21 September 2018 in Aberdeen (9.30-4.30)

10 October 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.30)

12 October 2018 in Dundee (9.30-4.30)

8 November 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

28 November 2018 in Inverness (9.30-4.30)

RespectMe training on bullying behaviours and practical strategies which can be used to address bullying behaviour wherever it occurs. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/bullying-never-acceptable-multiple-dates-locations/>

** *this week*

Upping Our Game: Can Communities Take the Lead?

Engaging with Decision Makers

25 September 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.00)

Scottish Communities CAN and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network course to improve the capacity of organisations to engage with politicians and decision makers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7nlmjxf>

** *next week!*

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator

25 September 2018 in Motherwell (1.15-4.00)

3 October 2018 in Oban (9.45-12.30)

Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions. Topics will include the role of the charity trustee, and guidance on safeguarding. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y777vxf8>

** *next week!*

Learning and sharing event

27 September 2018 in Dundee (9.30-11.30)

Volunteer Dundee consultation and information sharing event for people working with or in the BAME communities in Dundee. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y79s82mv>

Pit Stop: RESPECT Think Equality

3 October 2018 in Aberdeen (9.00-10.30)

This Pit Stop is centred around a video called 'Respect' which features various scenarios in which 'normal' behaviour at work may actually constitute discrimination and/or harassment. This Pit Stop will discuss these different scenarios and our perceptions of them to further our awareness and understanding of equality and diversity in the workplace. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8j3ay2w>

**** Barriers to making use of the Equality Act 2010**

3 October 2018 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.30)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to learn about the Equality Act 2010, how it applies to yourself or your organisation, and discuss the issues of Enforcing the Equality Act. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/ydbsc6kh>

Mainstreaming Anti-Sectarianism in Equalities Toolkit

4 October in Edinburgh (1.00-4.30)

15 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

WSREC training for public / third sector organisations, students and individuals interested in unravelling the meaning of sectarianism as an 'equalities' issue and its impact on the wellbeing, safety and opportunities of those affected, and on society as a whole. For information and to book for 13 Sept see <https://tinyurl.com/ydh74vrg>, for 4 Oct see <https://tinyurl.com/y9muw7pm>, and for 15 Nov see <https://tinyurl.com/y7cmj54e>. Other venues may be available by request – for information contact kperezp@wsrec.co.uk

**** Working with people from Diverse Religion and Belief backgrounds**

9 October 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity, and where unintentional discrimination may occur in organisations. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6z5afa>

**** Festival of Politics**

10-13 October 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

The Festival of Politics covers a range of topics, including major social, cultural and political anniversaries and movements that have swept the globe. To read the full programme see <https://festivalofpolitics.scot/>

**** Prejudice: Free Your Mind!**

11 October 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.15-4.45)

Festival of Politics discussion about why some people are deemed viable targets of abuse on the basis of faith, race, sexual orientation, disability and gender, and how political organisations and civil society can challenge institutionalised discrimination when it pervades public bodies from schools to the labour market? For information see <https://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/prejudice-free-mind/>

**** Freedom to Offend**

11 October 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (5.45-7.15)

Festival of Politics panel discussion: free speech was once an unquestionable virtue but now it is explicitly queried. With universities potentially fined if they don't allow freedom of speech on campus, how do we navigate this right with that of the freedom to offend? For information see <https://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/freedom-to-offend/>

Common Cause Networks

17 October 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-6.00)

Runnymede Trust support network for Black and Minority-Ethnic individuals and groups

(and/or for People of Colour) actively leading and developing their own projects and ideas, or founding their own organisations. For information contact commoncause@runnymedetrust.org / 0207 377 9222 or see <https://tinyurl.com/y7os4lyu>

Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitative Employment Practices Session

23 October 2018 in Stirling (9.30-11.30)

CSREC awareness session to cover what the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority does, the signs of trafficking, procedures for reporting, and dos and don'ts in reporting and working with victims. There will also be a session on Hate Crime Reporting. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7jux6a3>

Multicultural Football Festival

27 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

SFA and BEMIS festival bringing together teams from across Scotland celebrating diversity and inclusion across the country. The 2018 event will support the Year of Young People 2018 and celebrate the contribution of young people within Football. Open to Men's, Women's, Youth and Junior teams. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/event/multi-cultural-football-cup/>

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Glasgow Workshop

30 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Through an exploration of the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2019: *Torn from home*, this Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop will provide you with practical help, advice and free resources to enable you to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity of your own. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybnwysxc>

**** Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities**

31 October 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-3.30)

Conference organised by Bemis, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Government to discuss how effectively to challenge hate and prejudice through collaborative working. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y7qqfh8z>

**** Upping Our Game: Can Communities Take the Lead?**

Politics as Though People and Planet Matter

3 and 4 November 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scottish Communities CAN and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network course to discuss a fresh way to look at how we do politics, including place planning; community empowerment; alternative decision making models. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9ydb7s6>

**** Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

7 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; how to respond to misunderstandings or offence; and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y8eyezz2>

Scottish Interfaith Week

11-18 November 2018

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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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/>

[TOP](#)



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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