

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview+

MEMO+ is an occasional series of briefing papers on topics of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

It is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with the [Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland](#), and is supported by the [Scottish Government](#).

Briefing: The New UK Parliament and Government

General Election Results

The elections to the UK Parliament in May 2010 resulted in the Conservative Party having the largest number of seats although no single party has an overall majority.

Number of MPs elected in each political party

Conservative	306
Labour	258
Liberal Democrat	57
Democratic Unionist Party	8
SNP	6
Sinn Fein	5
Plaid Cymru	3
Social Democratic & Labour Party	3
Alliance Party	1
Green	1
Independent	1

One seat still has to be decided. This is because one of the candidates for Thirsk and Morton died after nominations closed. As a result, no voting took place in that constituency, and a by-election will be held on 27 May.

Negotiations between the main parties have resulted in an agreement to form a Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition government, the first such agreement since 1945. The practicalities of this are not yet clear, but the Ministerial team includes MPs from both parties, and some policy compromises have already been announced.

How does the Parliament work?

The Speaker

The Speaker, who is elected from among their own number by the MPs themselves, chairs proceedings in the House of Commons. The Speaker sets aside any party political allegiance and remains politically impartial, taking the interests of all Members equally into account and acting on their behalf. He or she is the highest authority of the House of Commons, represents the Commons to the Queen and the House of Lords, and chairs the House of Commons Commission.

The election of the Speaker will be the first business to take place when the House of Commons reconvenes on 18 May. If John Bercow, who was Speaker in the previous Parliament, stands and is unopposed, he will be elected then. Otherwise, the House of Commons will adjourn until the following day when it will elect a new Speaker by secret ballot. In any event the new Speaker will play no further role in party politics either within or outwith Parliament.

The Queen's Speech

The Government's legislative programme will be officially announced on 25 May in the Queen's Speech during the State Opening of Parliament.

The State Opening is the main ceremonial event of the parliamentary year. The Queen is escorted from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords by the Household Cavalry, where the members, all wearing full ceremonial robes, are waiting to meet her. An official known as 'Black Rod' is then sent to the House of Commons to summon MPs to listen to the speech, but, in a symbolic assertion of independence, the door of the Commons chamber is slammed in his face, and not opened until he has knocked with his staff of office. After this, MPs follow Black Rod to the House of Lords to listen to the Queen's Speech.

Although the Queen reads the Speech, its content is decided entirely by the Government, and it provides an outline of the Government's policies and proposed new legislation for the new parliamentary session. Following the Queen's Speech, there is a two-day debate on the Government's proposals in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The UK Government

The UK Government consists of Ministers who meet as the Cabinet, and make policy decisions which are supported and implemented by the civil service.

Note that not all of their work is directly relevant in Scotland because many issues, such as health and education, are **Devolved**, and are therefore the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament and Government. Other issues, such as foreign policy and immigration, are **Reserved** to the UK Parliament, and laws about these apply throughout the whole of the UK.

The UK Parliament can only pass laws that affect devolved matters in Scotland if the Scottish Parliament gives it permission by means of a Legislative Consent Motion (also referred to as a "Sewel Motion").

The Cabinet

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service

David Cameron (Conservative)

Head of the UK Government, responsible for development, implementation, and presentation of Government policy, and representing the United Kingdom abroad.



David Cameron has been the MP for Witney since 2001, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Minister for Local and Devolved Government Affairs and Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Skills. He was Leader of the Opposition from 2005 to 2010.

Before entering Parliament he worked in business, in the media, and as a Government Special Adviser, first to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and then to the Home Secretary.

David Cameron is married and has three children, one of whom died last year. His interests include playing tennis, growing vegetables, and cooking.

Deputy Prime Minister, Lord President of the Council

Nick Clegg (Liberal Democrat)

Second in charge of the UK Government, with special responsibility for political and constitutional reform.



Nick Clegg has been the MP for Sheffield Hallam since 2005, and a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet since 2006, holding several posts including Shadow Home Secretary. He has been the leader of the Liberal Democrat Party since 2007.

Before entering Parliament he worked in journalism and as a parliamentary adviser, and was a Member of the European Parliament between 1999 and 2004.

Nick Clegg is married with three children. He speaks five European languages, and his interests include skiing and mountaineering.

First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

William Hague (Conservative)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for promoting British interests overseas, and supporting British citizens and businesses around worldwide. (Reserved, so policy is relevant in Scotland.)



William Hague has been the MP for Richmond since 1989. He was the leader of the Conservative Party from 1997 to 2001, a Minister in the last Conservative administration, and has been the Conservative Shadow Foreign Secretary since 2005.

Before entering Parliament he worked in business and as a management consultant. He has written two biographies, one of which won History Book of the Year at the National Book Awards.

William Hague is married. He enjoys reading, walking in the Yorkshire Dales, cross-country skiing, judo, and learning to play the piano.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

George Osborne (Conservative)

The Treasury is responsible for formulating and implementing UK Government financial and economic policy. (Mostly Reserved, so most policy is relevant in Scotland.)



George Osborne has been the MP for Tatton since 2001, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2004, holding several posts including Shadow Economic Secretary, Shadow Work and Pensions Minister, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and, most recently, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a freelance journalist and as a researcher for the Conservative Party.

George Osborne is married with two children.

Lord Chancellor, Secretary of State for Justice

Kenneth Clarke (Conservative)

The Justice Department is responsible for the court system, and prison service in England and Wales, and for constitutional issues. (Mostly Devolved, so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Kenneth Clarke has been MP for Rushcliffe since 1970, and served in a number of Ministerial posts in previous Conservative administrations, including as Chancellor of the Exchequer and as Home Secretary. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2009.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a Barrister and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1980.

Kenneth Clarke is married with two children. His interests include football, cricket, jazz, bird-watching, and Formula One motor racing.

Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Minister for Women and Equalities

Theresa May (Conservative)

The Home Office is the lead UK Government department for immigration and passports, drugs policy, counter-terrorism, and the police. (Both Reserved and Devolved areas)
The Government Equalities Office is responsible for equality strategy. (Policy is Reserved but implementation is Devolved)



Theresa May has been the MP for Maidenhead since 1997, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1999, holding several posts including Secretary of State for Education and Employment, Secretary of State for the Family, and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons. She was also the first woman chairman of the Conservative Party.

Before entering Parliament she worked in banking and was a local Councillor in London.

Theresa May is married. Her interests include walking and cooking.

Secretary of State for Defence

Liam Fox (Conservative)

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for defence policy, and for all of the armed services. (Reserved, so policy is relevant in Scotland)



Liam Fox has been the MP for Woodspring since 1992. He was a junior Minister in the last Conservative administration, and has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1998, holding several posts including Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Secretary of State for Defence.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a GP and as a civilian Army Medical Officer.

Liam Fox is married. His interests include skiing, tennis, and diving.

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat)

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for higher education, science, business, and trade. (Mostly Devolved, so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland)



Vince Cable has been the MP for Twickenham since 1997, and a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has been Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party since 2006.

Before entering Parliament he worked for the Kenyan Government, in business, as a university lecturer, in the Diplomatic Service, and as a Special Adviser to the Commonwealth Secretary General. He has also been a local Councillor.

Vince Cable's interests include cycling, horse-riding, and dancing.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Iain Duncan Smith (Conservative)

The Department for Work and Pensions is the biggest public service delivery department. It is responsible for welfare and pension policy. (Both Reserved and Devolved areas.)



Iain Duncan Smith has been an MP since 1992, and has represented Chingford and Woodford Green since 1997. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1997, holding several posts including Secretary of State for Defence. He was Leader of the Conservative Party from 2001 to 2003.

Before entering Parliament he served in the Scots Guards, and worked in business and publishing.

Iain Duncan Smith is married with four children.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Chris Huhne (Liberal Democrat)

The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for policy to develop a low-carbon economy, and to mitigate climate change. (Mostly Devolved so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland)



Chris Huhne has been the MP for Eastleigh since 2005, and a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet since 2006, holding several posts including Shadow Home Secretary and Shadow Lord Chancellor.

Before entering Parliament he worked in the City, and was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004. He was a founder member of the Social Democratic Party.

Chris Huhne is married.

Secretary of State for Health

Andrew Lansley (Conservative)

The Department of Health is responsible for policy to deliver an affordable, efficient, and sustainable health service. (Devolved, so policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Andrew Lansley has been the MP for South Cambridgeshire since 1997, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003 as Shadow Secretary of State for Health.

Before entering Parliament he worked for the British Chambers of Commerce and for the Conservative Party.

Andrew Lansley is married with five children. His interests include history, films, and travel.

Secretary of State for Education

Michael Gove (Conservative)

The Department for Education is responsible for education and children's services. (Devolved, so policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Michael Gove has been the MP for Surrey Heath and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2005, holding the posts of Shadow Minister for Housing and Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools, and Families.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a journalist on newspapers, radio, and television. He has written several books, most recently a study of the emergence of Islamism.

Michael Gove is married with two children.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Eric Pickles (Conservative)

Communities and Local Government has responsibility for race equality and community cohesion related issues, local government, urban regeneration, housing, planning, and fire and rescue. (Mostly Devolved, so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Eric Pickles has been the MP for Brentwood and Ongar since 1992, a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2007, and Chairman of the Conservative Party since 2009. He held several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for Local Government and the Regions, Shadow Minister for Transport, and Shadow Minister for London.

Before entering Parliament he worked in the media and as an Employment consultant, and was a local councillor in Bradford.

Eric Pickles is married. His interests include bird-watching, film, and opera.

Secretary of State for Transport

Philip Hammond (Conservative)

The Department of Transport is responsible for developing a transport system which balances the needs of the economy, the environment and society. (Devolved, so policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Philip Hammond has been the MP for Runnymede and Weybridge since 1997 and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2002, holding several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Before entering Parliament he worked in manufacturing and in the oil and gas industries.

Philip Hammond is married with three children. His interests include reading, cinema, and hill-walking in Scotland.

Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs

Caroline Spelman (Conservative)

The Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs is responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs. (Devolved, so policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Caroline Spelman has been the MP for Meriden since 1997 and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2001, holding several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for International Development and Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment.

Before entering Parliament she worked in the sugar beet industry and wrote a book on bio-fuels.

Caroline Spelman is married with three children. Her interests include gardening, rugby, the parliamentary choir, and languages.

International Development

Andrew Mitchell (Conservative)

The Department for International Development manages Britain's overseas aid, and works to eliminate extreme poverty. (Reserved, so policy is relevant in Scotland.)



Andrew Mitchell was the MP for Gedling from 1987 to 1997, and for Sutton Coldfield since 2001, and held several junior ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for International Development.

Before entering Parliament he served as a UN peacekeeper in Cyprus, and worked in Africa and East Asia.

Andrew Mitchell is married with two children.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Owen Paterson (Conservative)

The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for representing Northern Ireland interests at UK Government level and UK Government interests in Northern Ireland.



Owen Paterson has been MP for Shropshire since 1997 and has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Minister for the Environment and Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Before entering Parliament he worked in business, and was president of the European Tanners' Confederation.

Owen Paterson is married with three children. His interests include horse racing and eventing, trees, architecture, and history.

Secretary of State for Scotland (and providing ministerial support to the Deputy Prime Minister in the Cabinet Office)

Danny Alexander (Liberal Democrat)

The Scotland Office is responsible for representing Scottish interests at UK Government level and UK Government interests in Scotland.



Danny Alexander has been the MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch, and Strathspey since 2005, and a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet since 2007, holding the posts of Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Before entering Parliament he worked in communications including for Cairngorms National Park, and was press officer for the Scottish Liberal Democrat Party.

Danny Alexander is married with one child. His interests include hill-walking, fishing, travel, and sports.

Secretary of State for Wales

Cheryl Gillan (Conservative)

The Wales Office is responsible for representing Welsh interests at UK Government level and UK Government interests in Wales.



Cheryl Gillan has been the MP for Chesham and Amersham since 1992, and was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education and Employment in the last Conservative administration. She has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Welsh Secretary.

Before entering Parliament she worked in business and was Director of British Film Year.

Cheryl Gillan is married. Her interests include singing and gardening.

Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

Jeremy Hunt (Conservative)

The Department for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport is responsible for policy on the arts, sport, the National Lottery, tourism, libraries, museums and galleries, broadcasting, and press freedom and regulation. It is also responsible for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. (Mostly Devolved, so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland.)



Jeremy Hunt has been the MP for South West Surrey since 2005, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet from later the same year, holding several posts including Shadow Minister for Disabled People and Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Before entering Parliament he worked in publishing.

Jeremy Hunt's interests include theatre, classical music, Africa, and Latin dancing

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

David Laws (Liberal Democrat)

The Treasury is responsible for formulating and implementing UK Government financial and economic policy. (Mostly Reserved, so most policy is relevant in Scotland.)



David Laws has been the MP for Yeovil since 2001, and a member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet since 2005, holding several posts including Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

Before entering Parliament he worked in the City and as Director of Policy and Research for the Liberal Democrat Party.

His interests include running, rugby, reading and travel.

Leader of the House of Lords, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Lord Strathclyde (Conservative)



Thomas Galbraith, Lord Strathclyde, entered the House of Lords in 1985. He held several junior ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration including Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, and was also Chief Whip in the Lords. He has held several Conservative Shadow Cabinet posts since 1997, including Opposition Spokesperson for Constitutional Affairs.

Until he was appointed a minister, he worked as a Lloyd's insurance broker.

Lord Strathclyde is married with three children.

Minister Without Portfolio (Minister of State) and Joint Chairman of the Conservative Party

Baroness Warsi (Conservative)



Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Warsi of Dewsbury, first entered the House of Lords in 2007. She was Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party from 2005 to 2007.

Before entering the House of Lords she worked as a solicitor. She has also done research for the Pakistan Ministry of Law and is currently chair of the Savayra Foundation, a women's empowerment charity based in Pakistan.

Sayeeda Warsi is married and has one child. Her interests include theatre, music, family, and food.

The following Ministers also attend Cabinet meetings

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General

Frances Maude (Conservative)

The Cabinet office is responsible for effective development, coordination, and implementation of policy and operations across all government departments.



Frances Maude has been MP for Horsham since 1983, holding several ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration, including Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1997, holding several posts including Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a criminal barrister.

Frances Maude is married with five children. His interests include opera, skiing, and cricket.

Minister of State – Cabinet Office (providing policy advice to the Prime Minister)

Oliver Letwin (Conservative)

The Cabinet office is responsible for effective development, coordination and implementation of policy and operations across all government departments.



Oliver Letwin has been MP for West Dorset since 1997 and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2001, holding several posts including shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

Before entering Parliament he was a university lecturer, civil servant, and bank director, and has written a number of books.

Oliver Letwin is married with two children. His interests include riding, mountain-walking, skiing, swimming, travel, philosophy, cooking, and eating.

Minister of State (Universities and Science) – Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

David Willetts (Conservative)

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is responsible for higher education, science, and business. (Mostly Devolved, so most policy is not directly relevant in Scotland)



David Willetts has been the MP for Havant since 1992, holding several junior ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1998, holding several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for Universities and Skills.

Before entering Parliament he worked at the Treasury and in the No.10 Policy Unit.

David Willetts is married with two children. His interests include walking, swimming, and cycling.

Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal

George Young (Conservative)



George Young was the MP for Ealing Acton from 1974 to 1997, and has been the MP for North West Hampshire since 1997. He held several ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration including Secretary of State for Transport. He has been a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 1997, holding several posts including Shadow Secretary of State for Defence.

Before entering the Parliament he worked in the City and as Economic Adviser to the Post Office.

George Young is married with four children and seven grandchildren. His interests include cycling and music.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Chief Whip

Patrick McLoughlin (Conservative)

The Treasury is responsible for formulating and implementing UK Government financial and economic policy. (Mostly Reserved, so most policy is relevant in Scotland)



Patrick McLoughlin has been the MP for West Derbyshire (now Derbyshire Dales) since 1986, and held several junior ministerial posts in the last Conservative administration. He has held posts as Whip whilst in Opposition.

Before entering Parliament he worked in agriculture and as a collier, and was a local Councillor.

Patrick McLoughlin is married with two children. His interests include walking and gardening.

Also invited to attend Cabinet meetings when required

Attorney General

Dominic Grieve (Conservative)



Dominic Grieve has been the MP for Beaconsfield since 1997, and a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet since 2003, holding several posts including Shadow Attorney General and Shadow Home Secretary.

Before entering Parliament he worked as a barrister, and was a local Councillor and lay visitor to police stations.

Dominic Grieve is married with two children. His interests include canoeing, mountain climbing, skiing, architecture, and travel.

Junior Ministers

Contact details for all MPs are on the UK Parliament website at
<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Cabinet Office

Parliamentary Secretary

Mark Harper (Conservative)

Parliamentary Secretary

Nick Hurd (Conservative)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Minister of State

David Lidington (Conservative)

Minister of State

Jeremy Browne (Liberal Democrat)

Treasury

Financial Secretary	Mark Hoban (Conservative)
Economic Secretary	Justine Greening (Conservative)
Exchequer Secretary	David Gauke (Conservative)

Ministry of Justice

Minister of State	Lord McNally (Liberal Democrat)
Minister of State (jointly with the Home Office)	Nick Herbert (Conservative)
Minister of State	Crispin Blunt (Conservative)
Minister of State	Jonathan Djanogly (Conservative)

Home Office

Minister of State (Minister for Security)	Baroness Neville-Jones (Conservative)
Minister of State (Minister for Immigration)	Damian Green (Conservative)
Minister of State (Minister for Police) (jointly with the Ministry of Justice)	Nick Herbert (Conservative)

Ministry of Defence

Minister of State (Minister for the Armed Forces)	Nick Harvey (Liberal Democrat)
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Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Minister of State (Minister for Universities and Science)	David Willetts (Conservative)
Minister of State	Mark Prisk (Conservative)
Minister of State	John Hayes (Conservative)

Department for Work and Pensions

Minister of State	Chris Grayling (Conservative)
Minister of State	Steve Webb (Liberal Democrat)

Department for Energy and Climate Change

Minister of State	Charles Hendry (Conservative)
Minister of State	Gregory Barker (Conservative)

Department of Health

Minister of State	Paul Burstow (Liberal Democrat)
Minister of State	Simon Burns (Conservative)

Department for Education

Minister of State	Sarah Teather (Liberal Democrat)
Minister of State	Nick Gibb (Conservative)

Department for Communities and Local Government

Minister of State	Greg Clark (Conservative)
Minister of State	Grant Shapps (Conservative)

Department for Transport

Minister of State	Theresa Villiers (Conservative)
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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Minister of State	James Paice (Conservative)
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Department for International Development

Minister of State	Alan Duncan (Conservative)
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Northern Ireland

Minister of State	Hugo Swire (Conservative)
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Scotland

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State	David Mundell (Conservative)
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Wales

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State	David Jones (Conservative)
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Law Officers

Solicitor General	Edward Garnier (Conservative)
Advocate General for Scotland	Lord Wallace of Tankerness (Liberal Democrat)

Chief Whip House of Lords

Captain of the Honourable Corps of the Gentlemen at Arms	Baroness Anelay of St Johns (Conservative)
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Opposition

Labour

Leader of the Opposition

Harriet Harman

SNP

Leader of the Party at Westminster

Angus Robertson

Useful Links

- **The UK Parliament**

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

- **Alphabetical list of MPs**

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

- **House of Commons Information Office**

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/hcio/> The office can be contacted by e-mail hcinfo@parliament.uk or telephone 020 7219 4272

- **House of Lords Information Office**

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/lords/house-of-lords-information-office/>

The office can be contacted by e-mail hinfo@parliament.uk or telephone 020 7219 3107

- **UK Parliament TV**

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Home.aspx>

Live broadcasts and archived video of proceedings in both Houses of Parliament and Committees

- **DirectGov**

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm>

Links to the websites of all UK Government Departments

- **BBC Democracy Live**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi>

Live broadcasts and archived video of proceedings in the UK and Scottish Parliaments, and Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

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 Charity SC029438)
<http://www.scojec.org/>



Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and buiLiberal Democrating 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.
<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



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.scotlandagainstracism.com/>