

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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**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 11 April 2010.
The UK Parliament will be in recess from 30 March to 6 April 2010.**

The next issue of MEMO will be 12 April 2010.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statement

UK Driving Licences (Migrants)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I am making this statement with my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, the member for Oldham East and Saddleworth (Mr. Woolas), as part of a joint programme of work between the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the United Kingdom Border Agency under the auspices of the immigration enforcement strategy "Enforcing the Deal".

We are today announcing an administrative change, under the existing legal framework, in the way DVLA considers applications for UK driving licences from non-EEA nationals. There is already strong operational co-operation between DVLA and the UK Border Agency to prevent identity and immigration fraud by foreign nationals. The Government's strategic objective is to move to a position where possession of an identity card for

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

foreign nationals issued under the UK Borders Act 2007 becomes a qualifying criteria for non-EEA nationals wishing to obtain a UK driving licence.

As a preliminary measure, I am informing the House that from today those applying for a provisional as well as full driving licence will have to demonstrate that they are lawfully resident in the UK, not simply lawfully present, in order to qualify for a driving licence. Those who are present in the UK on temporary permission or temporary release under the Immigration Act 1971 will not be considered eligible for a driving licence. Those granted leave to enter or remain in the UK for at least 185 days will continue to be able to apply for a licence while their leave is extant, provided they otherwise qualify.

It is right that those whose status remains undecided and those without leave should not be seeking to establish the benefits of ordinary settled life in the UK, including access to driving licences. Transitional provisions will apply to those with an outstanding licence application at DVLA.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100325/wmstext/100325m0005.htm#10032542000050>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what change there has been to the number of entry clearance applications granted since the transfer of the processing of such applications from the British consulate in Tel Aviv to the British embassy in Istanbul; whether the decision to transfer responsibility for deciding such applications from Israel to Turkey was made as part of a wider Home Office policy; whether an equality impact assessment was carried out prior to this decision; and if he will make a statement. [318455]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The hub and spoke programme was implemented in the British Consulate in Tel Aviv on 7 April 2008. From this date, applications have been processed at the British embassy in Istanbul. Entry clearance decisions in Istanbul are made by a team of entry clearance officers (ECOs), all of whom at present are British Nationals.

Key benefits of the hub and spoke programme include the consolidation of staff and complicated administrative functions into fewer locations to improve productivity and efficiency; improved quality and consistency of decision making; greater resilience and flexibility of the overseas network by allowing staff and their work to be located in more stable locations; and the delivery of customer service benefits such as the increase in the number of locations at which applications can be registered.

For the financial year of 2007-08, 1,886 visas were granted at the British consulate in Tel Aviv. Following the implantation of the hub and spoke programme, 1,500 visas applied for in Tel Aviv were granted in the financial year of 2008-09. Israelis do not require a visa to visit the UK.

Although a formal Equality Impact Assessment did not take place, an internal impact assessment was carried out before the hub and spoke programme was implemented.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0012.htm#10032227000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Married People

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of entry clearance applications for settlement as a spouse in the UK submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv were granted prior to the transfer of the processing of such applications to the British embassy in Istanbul; what proportion of applicants were of (a) Israeli and (b) non-Israeli background; and if he will make a statement. [321849]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between April 2007 and March 2008, 152 applications for spouse/civil partner settlement, or leading to settlement visas, were processed at the British consulate in Tel Aviv, with an issue rate of 98 per cent. The processing of such applications was transferred to the British embassy in Istanbul on 7 April 2008.

84 per cent. of the applicants were Israeli nationals, and 16 per cent. were non-Israeli nationals, as defined by the applicant's passport.

Diane Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of entry clearance applications for settlement as a spouse in the UK submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv between June 2008 and May 2009 and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul were granted; what proportion of applicants were of (a) Israeli and (b) non-Israeli background; and if he will make a statement. [321850]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Between June 2008 and May 2009, 103 applications for spouse/civil partner settlement, or leading to settlement visas, were submitted to the British consulate in Tel Aviv and processed by the British embassy in Istanbul, with an issue rate of 94 per cent.

91 per cent. of the applicants were Israeli nationals, and 9 per cent. were non-Israeli nationals, as defined by the applicant's passport.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0012.htm#10032227000026>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Adrian Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he plans to use to determine whether a Tier 4 visa sponsor is highly trusted; and for what reasons all Tier 4 visa sponsors should not be considered highly trusted. [321945]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The criteria for Highly Trusted Sponsors will be published on 22 March. The scheme will be implemented on 6 April. The UK Border Agency has consulted with the education sector on the development of the criteria.

Highly trusted sponsors will be required to meet tough new additional criteria and demonstrate that they have a track record of success in terms of bringing genuine students to the UK. These guidelines are being introduced for sponsors who wish to recruit international students in categories where there is a higher risk of abuse.

In addition, all sponsors will be required to meet robust new minimum standards regarding the recruitment and retention of students.

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department examined visa requirements for students wishing to enter other countries with a substantial English language teaching sector in its recent revision of the Tier 4 points-based system. [322001]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Yes, as part of the review of Tier 4, the student tier of the points based system, officials examined the visa requirements in place for students in a number of comparable countries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0012.htm#10032227000027>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Student Visas (Language Schools)

John Howell: What assessment he has made of the effects of tier 4 student visa changes on language schools following the review of November 2009 and the further measures announced in February 2010. [322957]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The changes came into force on 3 March, and we continually monitor tier 4 to ensure its effectiveness. Our policy is designed to protect the integrity of our immigration system and the reputation of the UK's education providers.

John Howell: The English language industry is worth £1.5 billion a year to the UK economy, which is money we cannot afford to lose. Will the Minister visit with me the many genuine English language schools in my constituency to see the effects that the changes are having on those businesses, many of which are small and family-run?

Reply from Phil Woolas: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his interest. I know he shares my desire to protect the robustness of the immigration system and at the same time enhance the reputation of genuine providers. I do not believe that the changes that we have made to achieve the former are damaging the latter. We continuously review the system—that is part of the strength of tier 4 and the points-based system overall—and although it probably too early to tell, I have yet to see evidence of a detrimental effect. We have to protect the genuine student, who has sometimes been exploited by unscrupulous colleges.

John Grogan: Would my hon. Friend be a little more precise about the level of English that prospective students on English language courses must attain? Language schools throughout Europe classify their courses as pre-intermediate, intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced. Can English language schools still teach advanced intermediate courses?

Reply from Phil Woolas: Yes. Some urban myths have been perpetuated in this campaign, so let me be clear that English language courses of six months and below, which are subject to a different visa regime, will be protected. Members of Parliament representing Scotland, which has different terminology, will be pleased to hear that foundation courses are maintained. The problem was with level 5 and below, where there was abuse of the system. As a result of the points-based system, we have significantly cut down the abuse of immigration law and protected the genuine college and, importantly, the genuine student.

Nigel Evans: The Minister is right to hit the phoney colleges, but we need a rigorous regime that does not hit established colleges and schools as well. As he is wandering around the country over the next five weeks, will he pop up to the Ribble Valley with me and come to Stonyhurst college to speak to the headmaster? It is clearly not a phoney establishment, and the headmaster believes that the current visa regime is hitting established businesses.

Reply from Phil Woolas: I will not be wandering around anywhere; I will be purposeful and focused in my travels—wherever the Secretary of State sends me. The hon. Gentleman makes a serious point about genuine colleges, and I have been very careful not to say that the private sector is bad and the public sector is necessarily good. There is good and bad on both sides of the divide. We have had support from the sector, because its reputation will benefit. I have established a unit in the points-based system tier 4 to deal with such cases, and it is best to do so quickly. Of course, if the hon. Gentleman wants to invite me up to his beautiful constituency, I would be more than happy to go again.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/debtext/100322-0003.htm#1003229000021>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) mean and (b) median time taken to process an application for asylum was in December 2009. [322331]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The public service agreement (PSA) delivery agreement 3, indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months. The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six months timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between one and 31 of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded. Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

61 per cent. of new applications received in June 2009 were concluded, i.e. to grant asylum or some other form of leave to remain or to remove from the UK, in six months by the end of December 2009.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

In 1997, the average time for an initial decision was 22 months. Records are not kept for the average time for conclusion for this time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0011.htm#10032227000014>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children detained at (a) Dungavel and (b) Yarl's Wood have been transferred to other immigration detention centres in each of the last six months. [321958]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Families with children can be detained at Dungavel House, Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood. Tinsley House currently accommodates family groups for 24 hours and Dungavel House for approximately 72 hours. Where detention is likely to extend beyond this timeframe, families are transferred to Yarl's Wood, which has the facilities to support longer periods of detention.

It is not possible to provide the information requested without examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-14 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) children and (b) families detained at immigration detention centres spent the entire period of their detention at a single location in the latest period for which figures are available. [321959]

Reply from Phil Woolas: For the period October 2009 to December 2009, 330 children left immigration removal centres. From our records, 230 had spent the entire period of their detention at a single location. These figures are based on management information. They have not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, are rounded to the nearest 5, subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Of the balance, some will have spent the entire period of detention at a single location but will have moved with their families for reasons such as medical appointments outside the centre, or a failed removal. We could only establish the number by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The number of families held in immigration removal centres that spent the entire period of their detention at a single location can be determined only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the health and emotional well-being of children of transfers between immigration removal centres. [321960]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency takes health and emotional wellbeing of those in its care very seriously; this is particularly true of children who are regrettably detained-with their parents-pending their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily. We introduced a new duty in November 2009 contained in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the Agency to protect and promote the welfare of children. The Office of the Children's Champion, which includes professional advisers, is responsible for challenging the Agency to ensure it meets its obligations, and they provide constant advice and support to those responsible for detention and escorting matters.

Prior to detention, the Agency conducts a formal assessment of each child to identify any particular medical, safeguarding or welfare needs in order to make the necessary arrangements to support them while in detention.

Children can only be held in three Immigration Removal Centres. Tinsley House currently holds families for 24 hours and Dungavel House for up to three days. Those families who will be held for longer periods are taken to Yarl's Wood, as are those families in Scotland whose flights are departing from London. We do not normally move families between centres for any other reason.

Prior to the transfer to Yarl's Wood, a number of assessments are made to take specific account of the safeguarding and welfare of the children making the journey. These include:

- The size of vehicle required to accommodate the whole family together;
- The length of the journey to ensure adequate comfort breaks, suitable child activity packs, dietary requirements and refreshments;
- Appropriate clothing for the weather;
- Feeding and changing facilities for babies and any requirement for child safety chairs and booster seats.

The discharging centre provides Yarl's Wood with all health records, welfare assessments and care plans, documenting any special needs or support in place for the family to ensure continuity of care.

On arrival at the receiving centre the family and children are individually re-assessed by a nurse within two hours and an appointment made for them to see a GP the following day. In line with the centre's safeguarding arrangements the children continue to have their welfare monitored and assessed on a regular basis by the multi-disciplinary team of healthcare, educational, operational and other staff, together with the resident senior social worker.

Angus MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether members of any families being detained at immigration removal centres have been detained at different locations in each of the last 12 months. [322377]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Phil Woolas: Local management information indicates that, at 11 March 2010, 18 family members (from six families) presently detained at an immigration removal centre had been detained under Immigration Act powers at a different location within the past 12 months.

The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Angus MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum number of children is which may be detained at each immigration removal centre; and how many children were detained at each centre in the last six months. [322378]

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are 66 rooms providing a total of 152 beds where families with children may be accommodated in the immigration detention estate. They are not all occupied at any one time since their use is dependent on the make-up and size of the family. Children may be detained as part of a family group in three immigration removal centres. Tinsley House has four family rooms of six and seven beds. Dungavel House has two three-bedded family rooms and Yarl's Wood has 60 two-bedded family rooms. The rooms are inter-linked to allow larger family groups to be accommodated together. The number of children who entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers for the last six months of 2009 is published in table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Third Quarter and Table 9.1 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom Fourth Quarter which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0013.htm#10032227000032>

Immigration

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will review the mechanisms by which his Department considers immigration applications from adults who arrived in the UK as children for the purposes of ensuring consistency in his Department's decisions on whether to grant leave to remain in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [317380]

Reply from Phil Woolas: There is a range of categories under which a child may arrive in the United Kingdom and who may stay into adulthood. The specific criteria and application consideration will vary for each respective category and it is therefore not possible to be consistent across the board.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications held by the Legacy caseworking team at the UK Border Agency were awaiting allocation to a caseworker on the latest date for which figures are available. [322350]

Reply from Phil Woolas: No cases are currently awaiting allocation to a case owner. On 17 December 2007 every Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) case was allocated to a case owner.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100325/text/100325w0028.htm#10032561000013>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Removal Centres

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were being held in immigration removal centres on the latest date for which figures are available. [322955]

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at 31 December 2009, 2,595 people were held in UK Border Agency immigration detention, none of whom were children.

Published national statistics on the number of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0011.htm#10032227000010>

Yarl's Wood

Alistair Burt: If he will request Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons to undertake an immediate inquiry into the recent protests at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. [322954]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency has commissioned a management review of the incident which will report shortly. The investigators have not raised any concerns thus far, so it is not expected that the matter will require further investigation. However, if overriding concerns are identified, we will of course review that decision.

Alistair Burt: I appreciate the Minister's answer. I also appreciate the involvement at a personal level of the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the hon. Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier), which is very helpful. Will the Minister reconsider the involvement of Dame Anne Owers? He will be aware that there is increasing concern about the condition of some of those who have been refusing food, that there were reports that some were taken to hospital last week, and that there have been allegations of suicide attempts. There is a continuing difference between the views of those health issues taken by Serco and the UK Border Agency and by those outside who look after detainees, and that will not be ended unless there is an independent review by Anne Owers rather than a management review.

Reply from Phil Woolas: I thank the hon. Gentleman. This is an issue in his constituency. He wrote to my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary on 18 March, and a reply is being drafted for him. I take the point that he is making. Thus far, we have found no substance whatsoever in the allegations; indeed, the opposite is the case. If you will indulge me, Mr. Speaker, let me point out that the resident who claimed that she was not a criminal has in fact served time for drug supplying and has attacked two of our officers. CCTV footage is available, and the independent monitoring board, which has written to me and to my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary, was witness to the alleged incidents, but I have an open mind on the hon. Gentleman's point, because it may be needed to give status-let me put it that way-to these concerns.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/debtext/100322-0002.htm#1003229000019>

Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the 89 complaints received by the UK Border Agency in 2009 alleging assaults by escorts or custody officers were upheld; how many were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service; and what penalties were applied to the two contracting companies concerned. [HL2648]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Eighty eight complaints were received by the UK Border Agency in 2009 of alleged excessive force by escorts or custody officers. Two were upheld. Of these, the accreditation of one custody officer was

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revoked and a recommendation was accepted in the other to provide coaching to the officer concerned.

All complaints of alleged excessive force are referred to the police automatically and it is for them to refer a case to the Crown Prosecution Service if they think there is adequate evidence that a crime has been committed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100322w0003.htm#10032215001747>

Immigration

Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to monitor the destination of those refused leave to remain in the UK who have not yet been removed from the UK. [315901]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The introduction of better contact management through the use of physical reporting at reporting centres and police stations together with the use of electronic monitoring (tagging and voice recognition) has allowed the UK Border Agency to maintain contact with asylum applicants at all stages of the process and with those who have breached immigration law.

The UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information Service continually monitors the situation in the countries of origin of those who seek international protection in the UK, taking into account information from a wide range of recognised and respected sources. We enforce the return of an individual only where we and the courts are satisfied that the person concerned will not be at risk.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on payments made in relation to immigration casework consequent on complaints to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman in each of the last five years. [322332]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not break down data on compensation payments into specific business areas. As a result of this, the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid in compensation in respect of immigration casework in each of the last five years. [322333]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Home Office prepares its accounts in accordance with UK GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) adapted for the Public sector in accordance with guidance issued by HM Treasury.

The information is not collated in the way requested but compensation payments/special payments are monitored routinely as part of the broader financial management arrangements in place within the UK Border Agency.

The Agency is exploring arrangements to collate this type of information in future years.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) mean and (b) median time taken to process an application for further leave to remain was in December 2009. [322351]

Reply from Phil Woolas: It is not possible for the UK Border Agency to differentiate between applications for leave to remain and applications for further leave to remain. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the answer provided on 9 March 2010, Official Report, column 222W.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100322/text/100322w0013.htm#10032227000033>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

British Nationality

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for British nationality through naturalisation were made in each of the last three years. [322988]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table provides the number of naturalisation applications that were made in the last three years.

<i>Applications for naturalisation as a British citizen received, 2007-09</i>		
	<i>Case type</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>
2007	Naturalisation	113,595
2008	Naturalisation	115,890
2009	Naturalisation	⁽¹⁾ 142,615
⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures. <i>Note:</i> Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.		

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which British nationality application forms may be requested over the telephone. [322989]

Reply from Phil Woolas: Of the 16 application forms used for British nationality only forms AN and MN1 may currently be requested by telephone. The others are available by downloading from the UK Border Agency website.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by children for British nationality were made in each of the last three years. [322990]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table provides the current number of children applying for British nationality made in the last three years.

<i>Minor applications for British citizenship received 2007-09</i>		
	<i>Case type</i>	<i>Number of persons</i>
2007	Minor children	38,340
2008	Minor children	36,565
2009 ⁽¹⁾	Minor children	47,385
⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures. <i>Notes:</i> 1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five. 2. Minor children are all children under 18 years old.		

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people requested nationality application forms by telephone in each of the last three years. [322991]

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are no records of the number of people requesting nationality application forms by telephone. The number of calls answered in response to requests for application forms were:

	<i>Number</i>
April 2007-March 2008	114,198
April 2008-March 2009	108,447
April 2009-to date	95,281

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The information has been provided from local management information and is not National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the decision was taken not to supply hard copies of British nationality application forms AN and MN1 and related guidance notes to people requesting them on the telephone; and what the reasons were for the decision. [322993]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The decision not to continue to supply hard copies of nationality forms AN and MN1 was taken on 12 February 2010. Most nationality forms are already available only by downloading from the UK Border Agency website and work is underway towards online application. Most applications are already made on forms accessed from the website. Discontinuing the supply of hardcopy forms AN and MN1 will save the agency in excess of £500,000 per annum.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100324/text/100324w0010.htm#10032439000107>

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had in the last year with states of origin or transit about trafficked children and adults; and what the effects of those discussions have been on preventing trafficking and arresting traffickers. [HL2850]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Government are committed to working with international partners to combat human trafficking. This includes source, transit and destination countries.

Discussions and co-operation with source and transit countries with the aim of reducing trafficking are on-going activities. Much of our international co-operation is facilitated through the EU and other regional European organisations, such as the OSCE. Beyond the EU, our efforts are routed primarily through engagement with the relevant UN bodies and also bilaterally through campaigns and liaison with regional organisations and individual countries, often working in conjunction with SOCA and other government departments such as DfID and the Foreign Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100323w0003.htm#10032379000334>

Children: Human Trafficking

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of child victims of trafficking in the UK. [320757]

Reply from Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect this information which is in any case intrinsically difficult given the hidden nature of the crime. However, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) estimated that around 325 children were believed to have been trafficked into the UK. This was taken from their 'Strategic Threat Assessment: Child Trafficking in the UK' published in April 2009. The estimate was derived from data covering the period 1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100325/text/100325w0037.htm#10032564000006>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Gwyn Prosser (1170) UK Borders Agency -That this House recognises the hard work of Home Office and UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff set out in the Chief Inspector's report into asylum within UKBA; is deeply concerned that the targets for dealing with new asylum claims within six months and clearing the backlog of 450,000 legacy cases are deemed unachievable with the current staffing levels; considers that plans to reduce the staffing complement across UKBA, including caseworkers dealing with the legacy backlog will be a massive blow to the proper running of UKBA; and therefore calls for a halt to the job cuts at UKBA and for investment in staff resources and training as the best way to achieve the targets set.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40812&SESSION=903>

Press Releases

PM outlines new immigration measures

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22960>

New centre opens to combat border crime

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/combat-border-crime.html>

New Highly Trusted Sponsor Scheme for Tier 4 sponsors

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/55-hts>

News

No 'flood' of asylum seekers as UN figures remain stable

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/No-39flood39-of-asylum-seekers.6174825.jp>

Children held unnecessarily at Yarl's Wood - inspector

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/beds/bucks/herts/8583601.stm>

UK should do more to help traumatised refugee families, report says

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/real-lives/uk-should-do-more-to-help-traumatised-refugee-families-report-says-1.1015371>

Asylum couple were told to exhume baby and rebury him in Pakistan

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Asylum-couple-were-told-to.6182785.jp>

Immigrants and asylum seekers face driving licence ban

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/road-and-rail-transport/7521298/Immigrants-and-asylum-seekers-face-driving-licence-ban.html>

Tory plan to cap immigration 'could prevent clubs signing top footballers'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/mar/28/tory-plan-cap-immigration-footballers>

Child asylum-seekers 'split from their families by force'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-asylumseekers-split-from-their-families-by-force-1926169.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Child asylum seekers 'denied food and medicine'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-asylum-seekers-denied-food-and-medicine-1925652.html>

Hackney: the promised land for Yemen's Jews

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/hackney-the-promised-land-for-yemens-jews-1926993.html>

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Equality

News

Runnymede 360° national network

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/projects/360-2.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Denis MacShane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent reports he has received on (a) anti-Semitic and (b) anti-Israel speeches made by speakers at British university campuses; and if he will make a statement. [323656]

Reply from David Lammy: The Department has received a number of letters from Jewish students following a Jewish student lobby of Parliament about "hate speakers" on some university campuses. My right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane) has also written to me about a reported anti-Israel speaker appearing at two universities.

Decisions about external speakers must rest with universities themselves. In this area universities are bound by the law both in protecting freedom of speech on campus, even if that free expression is controversial, and protecting students and staff against harassment or violence. The Government have made clear that there is no place for anti-Semitism or any other form of racism or intolerance in HE. Universities have access to guidance from both Government and the sector itself on promoting good campus relations, which draw out the considerations institutions need to give to free expression on campus and to addressing illegal behaviour.

There is a very clear dividing line set out in law between political debate, discussion of doctrine or faith and incitement to commit or glorify violence or terrorism. This line should not be thought vague. When the law is broken on campus those responsible must be reported to the relevant authorities. There is both a moral duty and importantly a legal obligation to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100323/text/100323w0022.htm#100323121000045>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Press Release

Fight against cyber hate must be stepped up without infringing on free speech, director of OSCE rights body says

http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_43178.html

News

BNP goes upmarket to target white middle class

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bnp-goes-upmarket-to-target-white-middle-class-1929309.html>

Senior bishops call for end to persecution of Christians in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/religion/7531293/Senior-bishops-call-for-end-to-persecution-of-Christians-in-Britain.html>

Christians discriminated against, senior bishops warn

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8591331.stm>

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Other Westminster

Early Day Motion

Mike Hancock (1188) Forced marriages – That this House acknowledges the excellent work done by the Forced Marriage Unit, the police and local authorities across the country to combat forced marriage and to protect victims of honour-based violence; recognises and welcomes the legal precedent set by Article 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights, yet regretfully notes the complete lack of prosecutions of perpetrators under this Act; further recognises that forced marriage is present across many faiths and cultures and is a growing issue in the United Kingdom; finds it disgraceful that there is no specific criminal offence in England and Wales of forcing someone to marry; and urges the Government to introduce legislation that will criminalise the act of forcing a British citizen into a marriage against their will or without their explicit and freely-given consent.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=40841&SESSION=903>

New publications

Literature review of attitudes towards violent extremism amongst Muslim communities in the UK

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1513842.pdf>

Preventing Support for Violent Extremism through Community Interventions: A Review of the Evidence Rapid Evidence Assessment

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1513881.pdf>

Guidance on managing anti-social behaviour related to Gypsies and Travellers

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1512778.pdf>

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New Publications

Small charity accounts: a comparative study

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=99a25402-00be-40f6-813a-1e1c139a01eb>

Small charity accounts: a summary of progress

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a1918982-075e-4c6b-b4cf-be3dcc6da2d6>

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Other News

Faith groups win right to avoid autopsy

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7078919.ece>

Female Muslim doctors allowed to wear disposable sleeves for modesty: official guidance

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/7528335/Female-Muslim-doctors-allowed-to-wear-disposable-sleeves-for-modesty-official-guidance.html>

Islamic school 'favours Sunnis'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8588083.stm>

Extending UK charity tax reliefs to certain organisations in Europe

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/bn32.pdf>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

**** Public Services Reform Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/index.htm>

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-03-22g.htm>

Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0325-02.htm#Col25002>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0325-02.htm#Col25122>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/b26bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0324-02.htm#Col24853>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/039/amend/ml039-i.htm>

Third Reading House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100323-0003.htm#10032376000529>

House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/096/2010096.pdf>

Explanatory Notes on Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/096/en/201096en.pdf>

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Consultations

(closing date)

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Equality Bill: Draft Codes of Conduct (2 April 2010)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-codes-of-practice-consultation/#1>

**** closes next week**

Options for future charity appeals route in Scotland (5 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0093191.pdf>

**** closes next week!**

Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/migration/mtecallforev.htm>

**** closes next week!**

Inquiry into the Budget Strategy and Equality Groups (9 April 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/Budget%20process%202011-12/BSPcallforev.htm>

Equality Bill: Draft Guidance (16 April 2010)

<http://ehrc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Consultations (continued)

Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland) (21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

Scotland's Future: Draft Referendum (Scotland) Bill (30 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/303348/0095138.pdf>

Publication of monthly asylum application statistical data (30 April 2010)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-asylum-stat-data/asylum-consultation2835.pdf?view=Binary>

Self-directed support: A National Strategy for Scotland (7 May 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/301424/0094007.pdf>

Call for Evidence on the End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill (12 May 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/endLifeAsstBill/currentInquiries.htm>

2011 Census Statistical Outputs (14 May 2010)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/census/censushm2011/preparations/consultation-and-research/formal-consultations/spring-10-consultation.html>

Refusing entry or stay to NHS debtors (28 May 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/nhs-debtors/>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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Funding Opportunities

NHS Health Scotland will be providing small grants of £3,000 and hands on support for projects targeting mental health stigma in BME communities. The successful projects will also get the opportunity to share their outcomes at the national Mental Health & Race Equality Programme event in December 2010. Anyone who works broadly in health or mental health improvement, equalities, BME communities or any combination, across the voluntary sector and public sector can apply. For information contact Arma Sayed arma.sayed@nhs.net / 0141 354 2931.

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** next week!**

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

9 April 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway

jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

Self-Directed Support: A National Strategy Consultation for Scotland

13 April 2010 in Glasgow (10.30 – 1.00)

BEMIS consultation event in association with the Scottish Government . Self-directed support is a way for people to get the support they need to be part of their community and to stay fit and healthy. This can be disabled people, older people, or people who are ill or dying. Self-directed support can help people to stay healthy and independent for longer. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 /

tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

23 April 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system.

For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

**** Are we really listening?**

29 April 2010 in Edinburgh (1.0.30 – 2.30)

(register by 23 April)

NHS Health Scotland workshop to discuss approaches to reduce stigma associated with mental health problems in minority ethnic communities, and to find out about small grants available for anti-stigma work with BME communities across Scotland.. For information contact Jacqueline McClafferty jacqueline.mcclafferty@nhs.net.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

Useful Links (continued)

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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