

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

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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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bill Wilson (S3M-2855): UK Nationality and Place of Birth - Gender-Discrimination—That the Parliament notes that children born before 1983 outwith the United Kingdom to British mothers, unlike those born outwith the United Kingdom to British fathers, cannot automatically obtain British citizenship through their parents' nationality and believes that such discrimination by the UK Government is not only unwarranted but unjust.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-11-12f.htm>

Ministerial Statement

Migration Reform (Points-based System)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): Throughout this year, the Government have been delivering the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for a generation. We are delivering a stronger border that maximises the use of new technology, a selective Australian-style points system to control migration and a clear expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay.

Already this year, we have made sweeping changes to our border protection, including

Immigration and Asylum Ministerial Statement (continued)

checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch-lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers. Last week we laid immigration rules making a number of changes, including to implement the skilled and temporary worker tiers of the points-based system (PBS), simplify the route for business visitors, and to increase the minimum age for obtaining a marriage visa from 18 to 21.

The Government are making an unprecedented investment in skills and training to ensure that UK residents do not lose out to overseas workers or see jobs go abroad because of a lack of skills. We have recently made a number of funding agreements with employers, worth £630 million over three years, to give them greater access to flexible, bespoke training aimed at tackling skills shortages in their sectors. These agreements cover sectors such as catering and hospitality, the nuclear industry and construction.

A fundamental part of the skilled worker tier of the points-based system is the shortage occupation lists, for the United Kingdom and Scotland. These are skilled occupations where the Government consider there are shortages so that it is sensible for vacancies to be filled by migrant workers from outside the European economic area. Migrant workers seeking to come to work in the UK score points if they are applying to work in one of these occupations.

In setting these lists, I have carefully considered the advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), which reported to Government on this matter in September. I am very grateful to the MAC for their independent advice. The lists are shown below.

To read the very lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/wmstext/81111m0002.htm#08111153000011>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5715]: How many unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the United Kingdom were detained in each month from June 2007 to September 2008.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the United Kingdom are only held in detention in exceptional circumstances, and then only normally overnight, while alternative arrangements are made for their care and safety. In addition, detention of individuals under 18 who have been convicted of a criminal offence and have completed their custodial sentence may be authorised in exceptional circumstances where it can be shown that they pose a serious risk to the public and a decision to deport or remove them has been taken.

Information on the number of such cases is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Formal detention powers are also used to facilitate the return, with appropriate escorts, of such children. Great care is taken with the return arrangements in such cases, including close liaison with the child's local authority social worker and the authorities in the receiving country, and will take place only when reception arrangements are in place. The return will be scheduled to take place during the course of a single day. In the period June 2007 to September 2008, there were approximately 60 such cases. This figure has been rounded to the nearest 10 in line with standard statistical procedures and is based on management information; it has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0002.htm#08111023000022>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Roberts of Llandudno asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5972]: Which immigration detention centres accommodate families or unaccompanied children.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Families can be detained at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre in Bedfordshire; Tinsley House immigration removal centre at Gatwick Airport; or Dungavel House immigration removal centre near Strathaven in Scotland.

Families will usually remain at Tinsley House and Dungavel House for no more than 72 hours. If detention continues beyond this point, they are normally transferred to Yarl's Wood.

Unaccompanied children are not normally accommodated in immigration removal centres.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0002.htm#08111023000022>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5890]: How many people held at Colnbrook detention centre are de jure or de facto stateless; and how they deal with such cases.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Currently there are three detainees held at Colnbrook who are stateless people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0003.htm#08111023000023>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5891]: What assessment they have made of the arrangements at Colnbrook detention centre for the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to grant bail, given the 90 per cent refusal rate; and how a bail address is to be obtained.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Applications for bail lodged with the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal are considered by an immigration judge, who is independent of the Home Office.

Applications are normally heard via video link with the hearing centre or in some circumstances and at the discretion of the immigration judge in person.

Applicants can provide an address themselves or there are organisations whose details are provided to detainees who can provide assistance with making an application.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0003.htm#08111023000023>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5892]: Whether Serco is complying with the terms of its contract to manage Colnbrook detention centre; in particular, whether welfare training is given to those responsible for the welfare of detainees; and if not, why.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The terms of the contract for Serco Home Affairs Ltd to manage Colnbrook immigration removals centre include a provision to supply one social worker for the centre. In response to an identified need for detainee welfare support, Serco employs seven welfare officers at the centre. All Serco staff at Colnbrook immigration removals centre undertake a range of training activities to assist in the management of detainee's welfare concerns. These activities include assessment, care in detention and teamwork, anti-bullying, pro-social modelling, managing aggressive behaviour and family contact liaison (via the Red Cross).

The management of the centre is also governed by the detention centre rules 2001 which have regard to the welfare of detainees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0003.htm#08111023000023>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5889]: How many people are in Colnbrook detention centre; and how many men have been held there for longer than three months after the end of their prison sentence.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Colnbrook immigration removals centre has a capacity to hold 348 single male detainees.

There are currently 122 men detained at the centre who have been detained for more than three months after the completion of their custodial prison sentence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81112w0002.htm#08111235000017>

Lord Taylor of Warwick asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5800]: Further to remarks made by the Immigration Minister, Mr Phil Woolas, whether they will take steps to prevent the United Kingdom population rising above 70 million.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Government are undertaking sweeping reform of the immigration system. This includes introduction of the points-based system to ensure that only those who the UK really needs come here to work. The points-based system is flexible and responsive to the needs of the economy and we will use these levers taking advice from the Migration Advisory Committee on where our economy needs migration, and from the Migration Impacts Forum to tell us about the pace of change that is right.

We will continue to examine population projections to inform our use of the flexibility inherent in the points-based system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0004.htm#08111023000035>

Evan Harris [230826]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers on Section 4 support were being provided with luncheon vouchers (a) in 2007 and (b) on the most recent date for which such data is available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Vouchers are issued to those eligible for Section 4 support by Accommodation Providers. They can be in the form of supermarket payment cards, supermarket vouchers or in some cases Luncheon Vouchers. UKBA do not hold central records detailing the provision of Luncheon Vouchers to those in receipt of Section 4 support.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0004.htm#08111028000011>

Evan Harris [230827]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which supermarkets are contracted to accept vouchers used by asylum seekers on Section 4 support in each region of the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The provision of vouchers has been contracted to Accommodation Providers and this information is not held by the UKBA. The Agency advises Accommodation Providers to purchase vouchers from the nearest local supermarket and other outlets, located within a three-mile radius of the accommodation, where a full range of items can be purchased. It is understood that the Accommodation Providers have arrangements in place with the major supermarket chains.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0004.htm#08111028000011>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Evan Harris [230823]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of (a) the annual cost of administering vouchers for asylum seekers on Section 4 support and (b) the annual administrative cost of providing support to asylum seekers on Section 4 support in cash using the post office network.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Failed asylum seekers who are eligible for support to avoid destitution under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are provided with accommodation and vouchers for food and other basic essential items. The Act prohibits the provision of cash subsistence.

Vouchers are issued to those eligible for section 4 support by Accommodation Providers. They can be in the form of supermarket payment cards, supermarket vouchers or in some cases Luncheon Vouchers.

The costs of administering the provision of vouchers has been contracted to Accommodation Providers and these costs are included within the unit cost negotiated with each individual Accommodation Provider.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0004.htm#08111028000011>

James Clappison [232782]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted UK citizenship in (a) each year since 1987 and (b) each quarter of the last four years for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The available data to quarter 2 2008 are shown in the following table.

Data for quarter 3 2008 will be published on 19 November 2008 in table 15 of "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary UK Q3 2008".

Data are published both quarterly and annually as National Statistics and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0004.htm#08111028000012>

James Clappison [232783]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality have been granted UK citizenship since 1987.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Statistics on persons granted British citizenship by previous nationality are published annually in Home Office National Statistics statistical bulletins.

The requested data can be found in table 4 of "Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom" for the years 1987 to 1990 and in "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom" for the years 1991 to 2007. These publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0005.htm>

James Clappison [232784]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for UK citizenship were refused on the grounds that the applicant was not of good character in each year since 1997.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The available data from 2002 to 2007 are shown in the following table.

Data regarding refusals of applications for British citizenship before 2002 are not available.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Data are published annually as National Statistics and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

<i>Refusal of British citizenship on grounds of the applicant not being of good character, 2002 to 2007</i>	
	<i>Number of applications refused as not of good character⁽¹⁾</i>
2002	740
2003	945
2004	1,185
2005	1,665
2006 ⁽²⁾	1,765
2007 ⁽³⁾	1,695
⁽¹⁾ Includes applicants who are considered a threat to national security. ⁽²⁾ Revised ⁽³⁾ Provisional	

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0005.htm>

James Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people renounced UK citizenship in each year since 1987, broken down by new nationality taken. [232785]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of people who renounced British citizenship in each of the last six years.

	<i>Number of renunciations</i>
2002	1,140
2003	680
2004	670
2005	590
2006	600
2007	585
Total	4,265

Information relating to the nationality acquired or retained as a result of the renunciation and information for the period from 1987 to 2001 could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

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.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0005.htm>

James Clappison [232781]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pass rate was of those taking the Knowledge of Life test (a) applying for citizenship and (b) applying for settlement in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The pass rates for candidates taking the Life in the UK test are as follows.

Candidates are asked whether they are sitting the test because they wish to apply

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

for citizenship or settlement. A small proportion of candidates (1.3 per cent.) are unable to state what type of application they will be making to UKBA following their test and these are recorded as other.

<i>Percentage</i>								
<i>Pass rates</i>	<i>Oct to Dec 2006</i>	<i>Jan to Mar 2007</i>	<i>Apr to Jun 2007</i>	<i>Jul to Sept 2007</i>	<i>Oct to Dec 2007</i>	<i>Jan to Mar 2008</i>	<i>Apr to Jun 2008</i>	<i>Jul to Sept 2008</i>
Citizenship	66.2	70.1	64.8	65.7	68.4	70.2	68.9	66.2
Settlement	—	—	76.3	74.4	76.1	76.6	75.6	74.2
Other	—	—	58.6	49.3	57.3	53.1	53.8	45.3

Note: Data provided by University for Industry.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0005.htm#0811102800013>

Damian Green: [232325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have (a) escaped or absconded and (b) returned or been recaptured after escaping or absconding from each establishment in the immigration detention estate in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of detainees who have escaped from immigration removal centres has only been collated centrally since 2005.

	<i>Escaped</i>	<i>Recaptured</i>
<i>Campsfield House</i>		
2007	29	23
2008 (To date)	7	4
<i>Colnbrook</i>		
2005	1	—
<i>Dungavel House</i>		
2006	1	1
<i>Haslar</i>		
2008 (To date)	2	2
<i>Lindholme</i>		
2008 (To date)	1	1
<i>Oakington</i>		
2005	4	—
2006	19	2
2007	63	19
2008 (To date)	24	6
<i>Yarl's Wood</i>		
2007	1	1

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0006.htm#0811102800025>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Patrick Mercer [232655]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been excluded from the UK since 24 August 2005 on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Since 24 August 2005, 79 foreign nationals have been excluded from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0007.htm#08111028000030>

Damian Green [231586]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many on-the-spot fines have been imposed on employers using illegal immigrant labour since February 2008; and how many illegal immigrants have been removed from the UK as a result of operations leading to such fines.

Reply from Phil Woolas: To date 1,012 notices of liability for a civil penalty have been issued since the implementation of the new civil penalties regime in February 2008. Figures provided from the database do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional as they are subject to change.

The United Kingdom (UK) Border Agency does not hold data in the format requested on those encountered working illegally that have been removed from the UK. Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf> and are also available from the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000036>

Mike Penning [231862]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration is made of the status of a marriage of a foreign national to a British national under Sharia law completed outside the UK in dealing with an application for residency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Those applying for leave to enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their marriage to a British national must satisfy the UK Border Agency that they are validly married to their sponsor. In order for a marriage contracted overseas to be valid in the United Kingdom it must meet three criteria:

1. The type of marriage must be one recognised in the country in which it took place;
2. The marriage must have been properly executed so as to satisfy the requirements of the law of the country in which it took place; and
3. There must have been nothing in the law of either party's domicile that restricted his or her freedom to enter into the marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000037>

Mike Penning[231899]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect the divorce of a foreign national from a British national under Sharia law would have on an individual's residency status.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The only valid way of divorcing in the United Kingdom and Islands is by obtaining, on application, a decree from a civil court. The recognition of overseas divorces is considered under the provisions of the current legislation—the Family Law Act 1986—which came into force on 5 April 1988.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000037>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Mike Penning [231861]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals married under Sharia law outside the UK (a) were granted residence and (b) took up residence in the UK during each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: When considering applications for leave to enter or remain staff in the UK Border Agency must satisfy themselves that the applicant is validly married to the sponsor. The type of marriage is not recorded and therefore statistics are not available. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 803W.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000071>

James Clappison [233093]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W, on immigration: criminal records, what the policy is of the Government on the grant of indefinite leave to remain under the legacy exercise to individuals with criminal convictions; where (a) on the website referred to and (b) elsewhere the policy is explained; and for what reason her Answer did not set out the Government's policy.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate applies a range of existing UK Border Agency policies when considering cases within the legacy. All cases within the legacy are checked for criminality before any decision is made. Deportation of individuals with criminality is considered in line with Chapters 11 to 15 of the published Enforcement Instructions and Guidance on the UK Border Agency's website at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectionb/>

If there is criminality, but deportation is not pursued and there are no outstanding applications or asylum or human rights issues, consideration will be given to criminal records in line with the extenuating circumstances as described in Chapter 53 of the published Enforcement Instructions and Guidance on the UK Border Agency's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/ind/manuals/enforcement/guidance/Resources/Detention_and_Removals/Guidance/Chapter53.doc

Copies of the chapters referred to will be placed in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000038>

Keith Vaz [233313]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period of time that an individual has been detained in an immigration removal centre is.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information of this kind is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Although under UK immigration law there are no fixed limits on the length of detention, there is a requirement to keep it to the minimum period necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised in line with article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights and associated jurisprudence.

National Statistics on detention are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Control of Immigration which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000039>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [233332]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time an individual was detained in an immigration removal centre was in each of the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is not available for the time period requested and could be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Following a change in the computer system in which information is collected; statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available after September 2006. Information up to that date for each year is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.4 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000039>

Chris Huhne [233324]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been (a) prosecuted for and (b) found guilty of offences relating to breaches of immigration law by educational institutions in each year since 1997, broken down by offence.

Reply from Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of 'other' offenders (i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.) proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for all immigration offences in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 are given in the tables. Data for 2007 will be available in late November 2008.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not separately identify educational institutions from other public bodies or companies within the 'other' offender category.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0008.htm#08111028000040>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0009.htm>

James Clappison [234273]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made of the proportion of foreign nationals aged over 16 years in the UK workforce in each year since 1987; what breakdown the ONS has made of the employment of foreign nationals by sector; and what estimate the ONS made of the proportion of foreign nationals in the workforce by sector in the last quarter for which figures are available.

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

of the proportion of foreign nationals aged over 16 years in the UK workforce in each year since 1987; what breakdown the ONS has made of the employment of foreign nationals by sector; and what estimate the ONS has made of the proportion of foreign nationals in the workforce by sector in the last quarter for which figures are available (234273).

The attached table provides estimates on the proportion of people aged 16 and over in employment who are non-UK nationals from April-June 1995 to April-June 2008. Comparable data prior to 1995 are not available. These estimates have also been broken down by Standard Industrial Classification (1992) sector to provide the proportion of non-UK nationals employed within each industry sector.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0025.htm#08111110000038>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0026.htm>

James Clappison [224535]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2220W, on national insurance: immigrants, how many of the 3,275 cases have been referred to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigation Service for investigation; how many prosecutions have been brought; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Tony McNulty: Following the action already taken by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and the United Kingdom Border Agency to deal with persons suspected of working in the security industry in breach of immigration laws, 468 of the 3,275 cases where names or national insurance numbers given to the SIA were false have been referred to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigation Service. So far, no evidence of criminal activity against the DWP has been identified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0032.htm#08111110000095>

James Clappison [224536]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2220W, on national insurance: immigrants, how many of 1,873 national insurance numbers which existed on the Department's Customer Information System but which were registered in a different name had been issued since July 2006.

Reply from Tony McNulty: Of the 1,873 national insurance numbers provided to the Security Industry Authority where the name did not correspond to the name held on the Department's Customer Information System, all had been issued to genuine individuals and 35 had been issued after July 2006.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081110/text/81110w0032.htm#08111110000095>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Alton of Liverpool asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5993]: Whether they deport from Britain members of Iraq's minorities, particularly the Christians and Mandaeans.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead): All asylum claims, including those from Iraqi nationals, are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights against the background of the latest accurate, sourced and up-to-date country information.

The UK Border Agency will only enforce the return of individuals whom it and the courts are satisfied are not in need of international protection and do not elect to leave voluntarily. We do not accept that each and every asylum seeker who presents themselves as being from a particular country or religion should automatically be afforded protection in the United Kingdom. Removal will only be carried out where it is considered both appropriate and safe to do so.

The August 2008 version of the Home Office country report for Iraq is available to view at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81111w0002.htm#08111157000017>

John Mann [226550]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were living in each constituency in the UK at the most recent date for which figures are available.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. A detailed breakdown by regional location of those asylum seekers not in receipt of support would only be available at disproportionate cost by examination of each of the individual case records.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken down by parliamentary constituency are published on a quarterly basis and are available from the Library of the House. Tables are placed in the Library of the House on a quarterly basis and are named "Asylum seekers supported in accommodation, by UK Government Office Region and Parliamentary Constituency" and "Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support, by UK Government Office Region and Parliamentary Constituency". These regional breakdowns are available from December 2002.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken down by UK Government Office Region and local authority are also published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available in 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/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0004.htm#08111149000052>

Philip Hollobone [229903]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of unsuccessful asylum seekers who are in the United Kingdom without leave to remain.

Reply from Phil Woolas: No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

On 19 June 2008, the Government set out its plans to more robustly enforce the immigration rules including the removal of those not entitled to be here. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/?requestType=form&view=Search+results&simpleOrAdvanced=simple&page=1&content%20Type=All&searchTerm=enforcing+the+deal&Submit=Go>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0004.htm#08111149000052>

Damian Green [183008]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those listed as being removed from the UK in 2006 were removed at a port; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Of the 63,865 removals from the UK in 2006, 34,825 (55 per cent.) were persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed. This proves the success and strength of our border and juxtaposed controls. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and 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/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000064>

Sally Keeble [225928]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to introduce mobile detention vans operated by the UK Border Agency on a national basis.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The pilot of a mobile detention facility started in Northampton on 30 September and lasted for five weeks. The pilot covered the full range of operational scenarios our in-country enforcement officers face to test the facility's usefulness and how it complements, or adds to the existing fleet of vehicles available to the United Kingdom Border Agency.

The benefits will be assessed to determine whether the United Kingdom Border Agency wants to deploy additional vehicles of this specification in the future.

The mobile detention facility itself was adapted for this pilot from this existing fleet of vehicles, and on completion of the pilot it will continue to be available for operational tasking as required on a national basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000065>

Damian Green [227551]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sites her Department has identified as suitable for alternative to detention programmes for asylum seeking families; and when she expects those sites to become operational.

Reply from Phil Woolas: One site in Scotland has already been identified as suitable for a future A2D pilot and the location and start date will be announced when contractual negotiations are complete.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000065>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [233310]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of detaining (a) an adult and (b) a person under 16 years in an immigration centre for one year, broken down by category of cost.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We do not differentiate costs between an adult and a person under 16-years-old in our immigration removal centres (IRC). The estimated average cost of holding a single person in an IRC is £130 per day.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000066>

James Clappison [231274]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 267W, on illegal immigrants: employment, how many (a) arrests have been made and (b) enforcement actions commenced in respect of illegal migrant workers in each year since 2005.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information requested is set out in the table at annex A. Prior to April 2005 the UK Border Agency did not produce regular reports on numbers of individuals arrested. The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

<i>Annex A: Illegal working operational activity</i>		
	<i>Total enforcement visits</i>	<i>Number of arrests made</i>
2005-06	3,748	3,774
2006-07	5,412	4,001
2007-08	7,178	5,589

Note:
The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000070>

John Mann [232981]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration her Department has given to abolishing unconditional leave to remain.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We set out in the Green Paper "The Path to Citizenship" that there would be three routes to citizenship—economic, family and protection—and a clear three-stage journey through temporary residence, a new stage of probationary citizenship and then British citizenship or permanent residence. Consideration is being given to each stage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000071>

Damian Green [163149]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those asylum seekers required to report to an immigration detention centre while their applications were being processed missed at least one appointment in (a) June and (b) September 2007.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Records indicate that in both June and September 2007 9 per cent. of those asylum seekers required to report failed to do so at least once. This data is based on management information and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it is subject to change.

The information does not include asylum seekers reporting at police stations or failed asylum seekers who are subject to reporting restrictions. It refers to asylum seekers who have made an application for asylum and have not yet had an outcome.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000072>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Francis Maude [233404]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to proposals to allow migrants who take part in community work to serve a shorter period before getting a UK passport, which public sector agencies will monitor the validity of the community work.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We want migrants who wish to make the UK their long-term home to integrate fully into our society and we want to reward migrants who make an effort to be active citizens with a quicker path to citizenship.

We have established a group with representatives from local government and the third sector to help us identify the most effective and practical way of implementing the proposal, including the most appropriate way we can verify that activities have taken place.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0006.htm#08111149000073>

Stephen Williams[232384]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who have been convicted of a crime in the UK are awaiting deportation.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Case law and existing policy means that the UK Border Agency are only able to give consideration as to whether a foreign national who has committed a crime within the United Kingdom should be subject to deportation action until 12 months before the end of an individual's sentence, except when their sentence length is shorter. As such the information requested is not available as it is not possible to provide an indication as to the eventual outcome of the case for a foreign prisoner who is currently serving their sentence.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Having exceeded the Prime Minister's target of 4,000 deportations or removals of foreign prisoners in 2007, the Agency has now been set an even tougher target and aims to remove or deport more than 5,000 foreign prisoners in 2008. In the first six months of this year, the Agency had deported or removed nearly 2,500 which is a record performance, 22 per cent. higher than for the same period in 2007 and nearly 140 per cent. higher than in 2006.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0008.htm#08111149000077>

Chris Huhne [233322]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of asylum decisions were overturned on appeal in each year since 1997.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: The information requested can be viewed in the following table.

	<i>Allowed</i>			<i>Dismissed</i>		<i>Withdrawn</i>	
	<i>Total determined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>As percentage of total determined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>As percentage of total determined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>As percentage of total withdrawn</i>
1997	21,090	1,180	6	18,145	86	1,720	8
1998	25,320	2,355	9	21,195	84	1,770	7
1999	19,460	5,280	27	11,135	57	3,050	16
2000	19,395	3,340	17	15,580	80	475	2
2001	43,415	8,155	19	34,440	79	825	2

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2002	64,405	13,875	22	48,845	76	1,685	3
2003	81,725	16,070	20	63,810	78	1,845	2
2004	55,975	10,845	19	43,760	78	1,370	2
2005	33,440	5,605	17	26,555	79	1,285	4
2006	15,955	3,540	22	11,595	73	820	5
2007	14,935	3,385	23	10,735	72	820	5

Details are published in the Home Office publications 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom', copies of which are available in the Library of both Houses. Details can also be found on the Asylum Statistics UK website at these links: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf>
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0018.htm#08111181000013>

Lord Avebury asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5717]: Whether they will ensure that the UK Border Agency issues guidance to staff dealing with female children subject to immigration control on how to deal with an alleged threat of female genital mutilation, including referral to the on-site social worker team if the allegation concerns a child who is located in an immigration removal centre, and the completion of a rule 35 form, used to report actual or suspected evidence of torture to the UK Borders Agency case holders.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency is committed to keeping children safe from harm. Staff are required to undertake a keeping children safe learning and development programme which includes a tested learning module on the action they should take if they suspect that a child they come into contact with may be at risk of harm.

When a person expresses a fear of return to their country of origin on the grounds that they would be subjected there to female genital mutilation this is considered by the UK Border Agency as an application for asylum and those who demonstrate a need for international protection are given it. Each application is considered individually by a trained decision maker in accordance with the United Kingdom's obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) against the background of the latest available country of origin information and guidance. Guidance for asylum decision-makers includes the Asylum Policy Instruction on Gender Issues in the Asylum Claim which makes specific reference to claims based on female genital mutilation. This can be viewed at

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumpolicyinstructions/. Guidance on the procedures to be followed on making, sending and considering reports under the terms of rule 35 of the detention centre rules was issued to UK Border Agency staff in early February this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81112w0002.htm#08111235000016>

Anthony Steen [234798]: What discussions he has had with the Home Office on support for third sector organisations in dealing with the social exclusion of trafficked persons.

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The Office for Criminal Justice Reform in the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office are currently in the process of tendering for an experienced third sector partner to deliver supported accommodation and advocacy to adult victims who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation and/or domestic servitude.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Anthony Steen: As the Home Office is closing down the country's largest dedicated police unit dealing with human trafficking, there is a real fear that the Government will ratify the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings to the minimum standards. Will the Minister therefore involve the third sector, which has experience of the subject and gives extremely good value for money—I am thinking of organisations such as ECPAT, the Helen Bamber Foundation, Anti-Slavery and the POPPY project—to ensure that victims, and victims alone, are at the centre of the process of implementing the convention?

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The hon. Gentleman is wrong to say that any such project is being closed down. He might be referring to the Metropolitan police trafficking team, to which pump-priming was provided, including £700,000 in the current financial year out of a total grant of £1.678 million. That is pump-priming money, and the Met have not yet made a final decision on it. I can confirm that the Home Secretary indicated in January that we will ratify the Council of Europe convention by the end of the year, and I make it clear that we are on track to do so.

Keith Vaz: Of course we will welcome ratification when it comes. As the Minister may know, the Select Committee on Home Affairs is inquiring into human trafficking. One of our concerns is the lack of co-ordination on a policy basis between voluntary projects in this country and in other countries, such as the origin, transition and destination countries. Will he ensure better co-ordination between the third sector organisations in countries affected by human trafficking?

Reply from Kevin Brennan: My right hon. Friend makes a very important point. Obviously, what third sector organisations can do in this country about trafficking is important, but it is also important to be able to deal with the problem at source. I look forward to seeing the outcome of his Committee's report.

Peter Bone: Would the Minister like to think again about the answer that he gave my hon. Friend the Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen), because the Metropolitan police are closing that human trafficking unit? Will the Minister get in touch with his colleagues and get up to speed?

Reply from Kevin Brennan: My understanding is that the Met are reviewing the most efficient and effective way of using their resources to ensure that their future operational response has the right resources in the right place to investigate criminals at all levels of operation and to bring them to justice. As I say, it is not a case of cutting anything; the funding that has gone into that particular unit has always been pump-priming.

Chris McCafferty: Many trafficked young women become pregnant as a direct result of enforced prostitution. Does my hon. Friend agree that compulsory and comprehensive sexual health education is vital to help all young women to protect themselves, especially those who are most vulnerable?

Reply from Kevin Brennan: My hon. Friend is absolutely right, which is why I welcome the recent announcement made by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Teenage pregnancy and social exclusion are big problems for young women in particular communities, and the key to tackling them is to build aspiration and have early interventions, such as the family nurse partnerships and family intervention projects, which have been pioneered in the Cabinet Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/debtext/81112-0002.htm#08111228000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Anthony Steen [235568]: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, on human trafficking, to which trafficking statistics her answer refers; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the statistics.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The statistics to which my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, refers are extracted from the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Compass Case Management System records which show that during the period, October 2007 to September 2008, 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation and five prosecutions for other trafficking related offences. Records held by the CPS are offence based and cover all trafficking cases throughout this period, including case investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

While the Compass Case Management System shows the nature of the offence at the outset of proceedings in magistrates' courts, it does not provide information on any subsequent modification to charges, nor does it provide any information on the outcome of proceedings.

I will place in the Library a copy of those statistics, which were correct as of 6 November 2008.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0002.htm#081113102000028>

Anthony Steen [235542]: To ask the Solicitor-General how many of the 125 prosecutions under Operation Pentameter II have resulted in convictions; and what sentences were issued.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) records show that 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation between October 2007 and September 2008. The CPS's records are offence based only and cover all trafficking cases throughout this period, including cases investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

While the Compass Case Management System shows the nature of the offence at the outset of proceedings in magistrates' courts, it does not provide information on any subsequent modification to charges, nor does it provide any information on the outcome of proceedings.

Furthermore, this figure does not include those arrested under Operation Pentameter II who have been charged with offences other than human trafficking related offences, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain, or money laundering offences.

The CPS's records do not show how many of the 125 prosecutions have resulted in conviction or the sentence passed. Cases from Operation Pentameter II are at different stages in the criminal justice system. However, the impact of Operation Pentameter II on the numbers of prosecutions for human trafficking will be considered as part of the overall assessment being undertaken by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The assessment will be published as soon as possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0002.htm#081113102000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Anthony Steen [235543]: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the 125 prosecutions made under Operation Pentameter II, how many defendants received legal aid; and how much funding from the public purse has been made available for such legal aid.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not record whether a defendant received legal aid. Legal aid is the responsibility of the Legal Services Commission, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is the central repository for intelligence and information on cases of human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0002.htm#081113102000029>

Anthony Steen [235646]: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 351, for what reasons 403 of the 528 persons arrested under Operation Pentameter 2 were not prosecuted.

Reply from the Solicitor-General: The statistics to which my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, refers are extracted from the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Compass Case Management Information System records which show that during the period, October 2007 to September 2008, 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation and five prosecutions for other human trafficking related offences. Records held by the CPS are offence based, and these figures include cases investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

The Pentameter II National Co-ordination Group announced that there had been 528 arrests for the six month period of police activity during Operation Pentameter II. An arrested person is only charged if the CPS is of the view that the two-stage test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors is satisfied. First, there must be sufficient evidence to create a realistic prospect of conviction. Second, it must be in the public interest to proceed. If the evidential element of the test is not made out then the case will not go ahead, however strong the public interest in prosecuting. Not all of those arrested during Operation Pentameter II will necessarily have been charged, and many of those who have been charged may not have been prosecuted in court yet as cases are at different stages in the criminal justice system.

Further, those arrested may have been charged with offences other than human trafficking related offences, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain, money laundering, assisting unlawful immigration to a member state (facilitation), rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment and threats to kill. Prosecutions for these other offences will not appear in the CPS figures for human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0002.htm#081113102000029>

James Clappison [177409]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants from (a) Ghana, (b) Nigeria and (c) Poland have received indefinite leave to remain in the UK through (i) the 1998 backlog exercise, (ii) the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, (iii) the legacy exercise, (iv) exceptional leave to remain, (v) discretionary leave to remain, (vi) humanitarian protection and (vii) the grant of refugee status in each year since 1997.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information on the number of nationals from Ghana, Nigeria and Poland who have received indefinite leave to remain in the UK through the 1998 backlog clearance exercise and the 2003 family indefinite leave

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

to remain exercise is as follows. Information on the nationality breakdown of grants of leave to remain under the UKBA's case resolution programme were provided in the response given to the hon. Member on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2348-49W.

Information on asylum initial decisions for nationals of Poland for 2005 and 2006 is as follows. Information for previous years and for nationals of Ghana and Nigeria are available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Since the accession of Poland to the EU on 1 May 2004 Polish nationals have not been subject to immigration control and have had the ability to exercise EU rights of movement and residence in the UK. Full access to the UK labour market was also provided under the terms of workers registration scheme.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

To read the tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0014.htm#08111242000019>

Douglas Carswell [233650]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were decided in each of the last 11 years; how many claims were granted in each of those years; how many dependants were included in those successful claims; how many people were granted extended leave to remain or humanitarian protection in each of those years; how many dependants were included in those grants; how many claimants were refused in each of those years; and how many dependants were included in those refused claims.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table gives published figures available for the last 11 years.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

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

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0014.htm#08111242000019>

to read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0015.htm>

Jo Swinson [232799]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of individuals held at Dungavel detention centre in each of the last five years had criminal records in respect of offences committed (a) in the UK and (b) overseas.

Reply from Phil Woolas: We do not hold this data centrally and to provide it would require each detainee's file to be inspected independently which would be at disproportionate cost. All detainees are, however, risk assessed before being transferred to Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, which includes a check against the police national computer to highlight criminal records and any other known risk factors.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jo Swinson [232796]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) families and (b) children aged (i) under 18, (ii) under 16 and (iii) under 10 years old are detained at Dungavel Detention Centre; and how many people have been detained there in each of the last five years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: On 30 October 2008 there was one family with no children in detention at Dungavel House

On 30 October 2008, there were two children with their mother in detention at Dungavel House immigration removal centre. Children are only ever held with their parents and normally spend no longer than 72 hours in the centre.

During 2006 there were 79 families with 162 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, seven children were aged 16 to 18 years, 27 children were aged between 10 and 15 years, and 128 children were under 10 years old. During 2006 the average length of stay for children was three days.

During 2007 there were 87 families with 184 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, seven children were aged 16 to 18 years, 49 children were aged between 10 and 15 years, and 126 children were under 10 years old. During 2007 the average length of stay for children was three days.

During 2008 to date there have been 67 families with 120 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, four children were aged 16 to 18 years, 25 children were aged between 10 and 15 years and 91 children were under 10 years old. During this year to date the average length of stay for children has been three days.

Before 2006 records of the age of children held at Dungavel House were not held. Records were kept on the number of families and children detained, and in 2005 there were 52 families with 96 children detained at Dungavel House, and in 2004 there were 61 families with 105 children.

The figures given are based on management information rather than published statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0015.htm#081113122000048>

John Hemming [233729]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable parents of dependent children, where the children are UK citizens and the parents foreign nationals, to work.

Reply from Phil Woolas: A parent of a child who is a British citizen is entitled to work in the UK if they have been granted leave on the basis of employment; leave on the basis of their relationship with a British citizen or settled person; leave as a student, provided they work only part-time during term time or full-time during vacations; discretionary leave, refugee status or humanitarian protection; or indefinite leave to remain.

In addition an asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision at first instance has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will only be considered if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant. If permission to work is granted, this precludes self-employment, business or professional activity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Neil Gerrard [233767]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the National Asylum Support Service Policy Bulletin 85 does not apply to failed asylum seekers (a) in receipt of Section 4 support and (b) without dependent children.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Policy Bulletin 85 (Dispersing Asylum Seekers with Health Care Needs) does not apply to supported persons in receipt of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, because the policy bulletin was published in December 2005, which was before we dispersed those in receipt of section 4 support. Policy Bulletin 85 will be replaced by a new asylum instruction which will cover those in receipt of section 4 support. The new asylum instruction has already been consulted on and the UK Border Agency aims to publish the new instruction before the end of the year.

The principles set out in Policy Bulletin 85 on health care similarly apply to the dispersal of those granted support under section 4, regardless of whether there are dependants. Information on the dispersal of section 4 supported persons is set out within policy bulletin 31 (Dispersal Guidelines) and in the Section 4 Support Asylum Instruction. Information on health treatment available to refused asylum seekers is set out within the Section 4 Frequently Asked Questions guidance document.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000027>

Brian Iddon [234022]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether compensation is given or dispensation made to an applicant when the UK Border Agency accepts that it has misplaced or lost their file.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency will consider paying compensation for the financial loss of reasonable costs necessarily incurred by an individual as a consequence of documents being lost while being processed by the Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000029>

Brian Iddon [234023]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what happens to the case of an applicant when the UK Border Agency accepts that it has permanently lost the applicant's file.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency decides on a case by case basis what measures are required to address any loss of an applicant's file.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000029>

Brian Iddon [234024]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files relating to applications for leave to remain have been lost in transit between units of the UK Border Agency in the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The information is not available in the form requested. The UK Border Agency maintains a rolling programme of locating files, and parts of files, which have been identified as lost. On 10 November there were 17,208 principal files recorded as lost which is approximately 0.2 per cent. of the overall file holding.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0016.htm#08111242000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Huhne [234324]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Sion Simon: Since 2001, the Government fund English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Skills for Life strategy as part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) overall adult skills budget.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) calculates the total amounts spent on Skills for Life ESOL as follows:

	<i>£ million</i>
2000/01	103
2001/02	185
2002/03	235
2003/04	267
2004/05	289
2005/06	298
2006/07	289

The data collected by LSC covers all eligible ESOL learners in England whether they are long-term residents or recently arrived in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0023.htm#08111251000007>

Chris Huhne [234315]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many places were available on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Sion Simon: Since 2001, the Government fund English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Skills for Life strategy as part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) overall adult skills budget.

The data collected by LSC cover all eligible ESOL learners in England whether they are long-term residents or recently arrived in the UK.

Providers are not required to hold a specific number of ESOL places but rather meet learner demand within the funds allocated. The data collected shows the number of enrolments by learners on courses with Skills for Life ESOL learning aim.

	<i>Learning aims enrolled</i>
2001/02	302,254
2002/03	409,749
2003/04	455,080
2004/05	538,681
2005/06	549,558
2006/07	335,232

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/text/81113w0025.htm#081113132000008>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Frank Field (236159): To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what, on the basis of the most recent population projections, is the level of immigration at which the population of the UK would remain below 70 million on unchanged assumptions about birth rates and mortality.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81113w01.htm>

Shailesh Vara (235349): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of case files of asylum and immigration applicants lost by the UK Border Agency or its predecessor bodies in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81113w01.htm>

Dominic Grieve (234734): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been detained in the immigration estate in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81110w01.htm>

Dominic Grieve (234134): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Oral Statement of 21st October 2008, Official Report, column 175, on immigration controls, what the evidential basis is for the statement that 12 per cent. fewer migrants would have come to the UK to work last year had tier 2 of the points-based migration system been in place.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81110w01.htm>

Press Releases

Less jobs for foreign workers under tough new system

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/less-jobs-for-foreign-workers>

200,000 fewer jobs available for migrant workers under new rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/migrantworkers>

Closure of the retired persons of independent means route of entry

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/retiredpersonsroute>

Possible blue card migrants have their say

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-41712-315-11-46-902-20081107STO41561-2008-10-11-2008/default_en.htm

New publications

No place like home? Addressing the issues of housing and migration

http://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/132103/No_place_like_home_migration_discussion_paper.pdf

'PAPERS PLEASE': The Impact of the Civil Penalty Regime on the Employment Rights of Migrants in the UK

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/report/papersplease.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Immigration rules and race discrimination

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/article/immigration_rules.pdf

European Ministerial Conference on Integration: Declaration

http://www.ue2008.fr/webdav/site/PFUE/shared/import/1103_Ministerielle_Integration/Final_declaration_EN.pdf

Guide to Locating Migration Policies in the European Commission

http://www.migpolgroup.com/multiattachments/4174/DocumentName/137.GuidetoLocatingImmigrationPoliciesintheECII_31.10.08.pdf

News

Fury as Met's human trafficking unit to close after funds run out

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Fury-as-Met39s-human-trafficking.4679861.jp>

New guidance officer to help foreign workers

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/935768>

Immigration 'almost no economic benefit to UK'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Immigration-39almost-no-economic.4697547.jp>

Inquiry into trial's use of unqualified interpreter

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2468270.0.inquiry_into_trials_use_of_unqualified_interpreter.phpv

Taxpayers fund new houses for failed asylum seekers under new Home Office scheme

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/3463096/Taxpayers-fund-new-houses-for-failed-asylum-seekers-under-new-Home-Office-scheme.html>

Around 1,350 illegal workers may have vanished in the UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3460122/Around-1350-illegal-workers-may-have-vanished-in-the-UK.html>

Congo refugees call for UK judges to show mercy

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/congo-refugees-call-for-uk-judges-to-show-mercy-1020491.html>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

George Foulkes (S3W-17246): To ask the Scottish Executive on what occasions since May 2007 the First Minister has met with (a) Cardinal Keith O'Brien, (b) the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, (c) representatives of the Jewish community, (d) representatives of the Muslim community and (e) interfaith bodies.

Reply from John Swinney: The First Minister has met the individuals and organisations above on the following occasions since May 2007:

Cardinal Keith O'Brien

30 May 2007: Lunch to discuss SCIAF work in Darfur

19 June 2007: Reception on Sectarianism

13 November 2007: Sword of State reception

2 February 2008: Cardinal Winning Lecture

20 February 2008: Anti-sectarian Art and Drama event

11 March 2008: Reception for the Apostolic Nuncio

21 May 2008: Opening St Matthews Academy, Saltcoats

26 June 2008: Launch of Scottish Islamic Foundation

9 October 2008: Annual meeting with Church leaders

Moderator of General Assembly

19 May 2007: General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

19 June 2007: Reception on Sectarianism

5 December 2007: Meeting to discuss anti-poverty work of Faith in the Community

31 January 2008: Meeting with outgoing Moderator

24 June 2008: Dinner at Moderator's Residence

09 October 2008: Annual meeting with Church Leaders

Representatives of Jewish community

19 June 2007: Reception on Sectarianism

5 December 2007: Visit to Calderwood Lodge Jewish Primary School

5 December 2007: Meeting with Jewish Community Representatives

20 February 2008: Anti-sectarian Art and Drama event

17 April 2008: Glasgow Jewish Educational Forum event

Representatives of Muslim community.

I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-15007 on 3 September. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

In addition the First Minister has attended the following event:

30 October 2008: Young Scottish Muslims Awards

Interfaith bodies

19 June 2007: Reception on Sectarianism

25 November 2007: Launch of Interfaith Week

30 November 2007: Our Scotland St Andrew's Day event

20 February 2008: Anti-sectarian Art and Drama event.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1111.htm>

S3W-15007, referred to in the above answer, detailing meetings with representatives of the Muslim Community is as follows:

George Foulkes (S3W-15007): To ask the Scottish Executive which organisations representing the Muslim community have met the First Minister in an official capacity since May 2007.

Reply from Fergus Ewing (3 September 2008): The following organisations representing the Muslim community have met the First Minister in an official capacity since May 2007:

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Date	Organisation/attendees/organiser	Nature of Meeting
03-06-07	Pakistan Welfare Trust	Guest of honour at 20th Annual Dinner
31-07-07	Muslim community representatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Glasgow Central Mosque · Edinburgh Central Mosque · Dundee Central Mosque · Al-Furqan Mosque, Glasgow · Muslim Council of Scotland · Muslim Council of Britain · Muslim Association of Britain · Islamic Society of Britain · UK Islamic Mission · AMINA · Radio Ramadan Edinburgh · YCSA 	Reception at Bute House
14-08-07	AWAZ	2007 Azaadi Award Show (Pakistan Independence Day Celebration)
18-10-07	Muslim community representatives: the Scottish Government does not hold the guest list for this event.	End of Ramadan Lunch, Scottish Parliament
31-10-07	Consulate of Pakistan	Meeting with Shah Jamal
01-11-07	Scotland's for Peace	Signing Scotland's for Peace "Covenant for Peace" Book
11-12-07	Glasgow Central Mosque	Dinner
17-01-08	Islamic Finance Council	To discuss what the Scottish Government could do to help Scottish Muslims acquire the Shari" compliant financial services they require and a proposal to develop and co-ordinate Islamic investment.
30-01-08	Scottish Islamic Foundation	To discuss IslamFest
21-02-08	Bashir Maan	Launch of Bashir Maan's book <i>The Thistle and the Crescent</i> (as MSP)
08-05-08	Pakistan Welfare Trust	Photo call
01-06-08	Pakistan Welfare Trust	21st Annual Dinner
26-06-08	Scottish Islamic Foundation	Launch

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-15007>

Press Release

Saudi Interfaith Initiative

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=News&id=9157498>

Race Relations (continued)

New publications

ENARgy: Intercultural dialogue: The European Year and beyond

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdf/ENARgy_10_2008_version_EN_Low.pdf

Speech from Prime Minister, Gordon Brown

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17474>

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: Remarks at the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Promotion of Inter-Religious and Inter-Cultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=366

Interview with the Foreign Office Minister, Bill Rammell

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Speech&id=9157411>

News

Free speech not a safe option for some Muslims

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2466823.0.Free_speech_not_a_safe_option_for_some_Muslims.php

Study criticises ethnic relations

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7725283.stm>

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Equality

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Johann Lamont (S30-4788): To ask the Scottish Executive when the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth last met representatives of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and what issues were discussed.

Reply from John Swinney: I have not so far met representatives of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Johann Lamont: I find that disappointing, and I urge the cabinet secretary to meet them as a matter of urgency, particularly on single outcome agreements.

The cabinet secretary may be aware that Morag Alexander, the Scotland commissioner, has said that the equality impact assessment is a requirement of the public sector equality duties, which are legally binding, and that it should be central to policy design, not policy review. In light of that, what advice did the cabinet secretary seek or receive from the commission on whether equality impact assessments are necessary for single outcome agreements? He is on record as saying that that is a matter for local government and local authority representatives have told the Local Government and Communities Committee that equality impact assessments are not necessary for single outcome agreements.

Reply from John Swinney: I respect the considerable interest that Johann Lamont takes in equalities, which she has pursued both as Deputy Minister for Communities and in other aspects of her parliamentary activities. However, the formulation of single outcome agreements is properly undertaken by individual local authorities. There is a duty on each authority to ensure that it takes equalities issues fully into account in the formulation of its policy positions.

On Johann Lamont's specific question, I did not seek advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission because I felt effectively advised on local authorities' legal responsibilities. I will monitor the situation as I monitor all aspects of the development of single outcome agreements in the policy process.

Sandra White: In 2006, Tom McCabe, who was then Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform, said on a similar issue:

"We can do our best ... to mentor local government and to encourage it to reach agreements that will strike the balance".—[*Official Report, Finance Committee*, 21 February 2006; c 3419.]

Does the cabinet secretary agree with that? Does he agree that it is up to local government and not central Government to move equal pay forward?

Reply from John Swinney: The issue of equal pay has been a significant part of the discussions that I have had with committees on the budget for 2009-10. I took part in an extensive discussion on the issue with the Equal Opportunities Committee, in which Sandra White participated.

The issues of equal pay and single status are properly matters for local authorities. As Sandra White will know, the Government believes that local authorities must be given the freedom and the flexibility to carry out their duties and obligations. I am pleased that local authorities are now making further progress on tackling the issues of equal pay and single status, and the Government supports them in that work.

Marlyn Glen: Does the cabinet secretary agree that for equalities organisations—and, indeed, for the people of Scotland—it is essential that equality impact assessments are implemented in a timely fashion? Will he outline how he is monitoring single outcome agreements, for which he has ultimate responsibility, and will he issue an interim report on the progress that is being made towards meeting the equality duties, which are legal requirements?

Reply from John Swinney: I consider the progress of single outcome agreements on an on-going basis. Many members told me that it was not possible to put in place single outcome agreements by April 2008 and, not for the first time, they were proved wrong. The single outcome agreements are in place, and a fresh set of agreements will be formulated by community planning partnerships, which will involve local authorities, in April 2009. The Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities are working together to monitor single outcome agreements and to advise authorities on the approach that they should take.

I point out to Marlyn Glen that the Government makes clear in our national outcomes the focus that we expect in national and local policy on tackling some of these questions. I refer her to one of those outcomes, which states: "We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society."

That outcome is to be part of the focus of policy making in Scotland, and our performance framework is designed to monitor progress towards achieving it.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor1113-02.htm#Col12365>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Philip Davies [232794]: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what average salary was paid by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to its (a) male, (b) female, (c) white, (d) black and minority ethnic (e) disabled and (f) non-disabled employees in the last period for which figures are available.

Maria Eagle: The current average salaries for staff in each group are as follows:

Group		Average salary (£)
a	Male	33,366.96
b	Female	28,920.48
c	White	30,803.91
d	Black and Ethnic Minority	29,035.12
e	Disabled	29,784.07
f	Non-Disabled	30,598.81

These figures do not reflect full-time equivalent salaries but are purely the average of total salaries paid to staff. They therefore have not been updated to reflect, for example, part-time working. The Commission does not currently have figures based on hourly rates. These will become available once the Commission has finished harmonisation of its legacy organisations pay arrangements onto common rates of pay. These new rates have now been agreed with trade unions and staff have been consulted. It is expected that these new arrangements will be implemented shortly. Figures based on hourly rates will be available in the new financial year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0017.htm#08111181000009>

Press Releases

Joint Communiqué on Equalities from the Scottish Government and the Scottish Trades Union Congress

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/562/joint-communicue-on-equalities>

Harman: parliament determined to change

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/prpage21.htm>

Harman: black and asian women are ‘missing voice of local democracy’

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/prpage18.htm>

News

Boost Labour diversity with shortlists, Cabinet minister insists

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2466717.0.boost_labour_diversity_with_shortlists_cabinet_minister_insists.php

Minorities to get political voice

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/932370>

Equality

News (continued)

Trevor Phillips welcomes Parliament's commitment to make politics more representative

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/politicsmorerepresentative.aspx>

Black women now outstrip whites on pay

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/career_and_jobs/article5162672.ece

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Bill Butler (S3W-17041): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-16055 by Fergus Ewing on 2 October 2008, whether the £150,000 it awarded to Football for All was provided exclusively for the development of the Kick-out Bigotry campaign.

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The allocation of £150,000 to Football for All was to develop, administer and deliver the Kick-Out-Bigotry campaign, including the Weekend of Action on 24 to 25 November and the month long awareness campaign around Scottish Premier League

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1110.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

George Galloway [234222]: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will hold discussions with the Scottish Executive on recent instances of anti-Irish racism at football matches involving Scottish clubs; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I have had discussions with the Scottish Executive on a number of issues, however none specifically concerning anti-Irish racism at football matches involving Scottish clubs.

Tackling such issues falls to the Scottish Football Association and Scottish football clubs, in conjunction with the police. Sport and policing are devolved matters.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081111/text/81111w0001.htm#08111149000021>

News

BBC host replaced in 'racism' row

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/7721813.stm>

Football chant row reaches Westminster

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Football-chant-row-reaches-Westminster.4683966.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Met officer 'settles race claim'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Met-officer-39settles-race-claim39.4692011.jp>

Kriss Donald killer Imran Shahid plays race card in appeal bid

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/11/15/kriss-donald-killer-imran-shahid-plays-race-card-in-appeal-bid-86908-20896301/>

Former officer Anne Ramsay lifts lid on life in 'racist, sexist, sectarian' police force

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/11/14/former-officer-anne-ramsay-lifts-lid-on-life-in-racist-sexist-sectarian-police-force-86908-20893342/>

As Kristallnacht is remembered, antisemitic violence still rising in Europe

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/media/disc/2008/alert/356/index.htm>

OSCE meeting discusses role of Holocaust remembrance in preventing anti-Semitism and other forms of racism

<http://www.osce.org/item/34827.html>

MEPs attack Facebook over anti-gypsy hate groups

<http://euobserver.com/843/27093>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Hugh O'Donnell (S3W-17140): To ask the Scottish Executive what progress it is making in relation to consultation on the issue of forced marriage.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: The Scottish Government's consultation on whether civil legislation should be introduced to protect those affected by forced marriage will be published later this month.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1111.htm>

Jackie Baillie (S3W-17397) : To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is on volunteering.

Reply from John Swinney: We believe volunteering has a major contribution to make in the delivery of our ambitions for a more successful Scotland and the 15 national outcomes. We are supporting the development of new, stronger connections between the third sector, including volunteering, and the community planning partnership in each area to enhance the development and delivery of each single outcome agreement.

We commend the involvement of volunteering to the public, private and third sectors as a key way to build stronger communities and bring highly flexible and inspiring solutions for people whose lives have been damaged.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1111.htm>

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jackie Baillie (S3W-17398): To ask the Scottish Executive what financial support has been given to organisations that promote and support volunteering in the last three years, broken down by name of organisation and amount.

Reply from John Swinney: All organisations which involve volunteers to some extent promote and support volunteering. The following table shows only directly-funded national organisations and projects which have the support and promotion of volunteering as a primary aim.

	2006-07 (£)	2007-08 (£)	2008-09 (£)
Volunteer Development Scotland	900,000	900,000	940,000
Network of Volunteer Centres.	2,415,000	2,533,000	3,234,000
MV Awards	796,500	796,500	Subsumed into Volunteer Centre Network grant.
Voluntary Action Fund	965,361	993,979	1,220,000
Community Service Volunteers (CSV)	75,684	81,100	81,100
CSV Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP)	330,000	341,000	355,000
CSV Give and Take	155,000	160,000	40,000 (extension to June 2008)
CSV Give and Gain	21,194	21,500	0
CSV Dare to Care small grant scheme		35,150	
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	507,698	300,511	364,333

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa1111.htm>

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Other Westminster

Debate

British Day

Andrew Rosindell: I am pleased to lead this afternoon's debate on proposals for a British day. If I may say so, the debate is not before time. Almost every nation, country, territory and, indeed, people throughout the world is proud to celebrate its identity by establishing a special day of celebration, so why not the people who inhabit these great British islands? The idea of a day set aside for a celebration of Britain merits serious consideration and now is the right time to have this discussion.

If we were to establish such an occasion, 2012 would be the right time to do so, being the year of the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. What a perfect year that would be to launch a British day. Let us have the debate; let us consider all the options, so that all British people can celebrate their identity with pride.

Much as I am a strong advocate of a British day celebration, I do not claim that the idea is mine alone. The Minister for the Cabinet Office stated: "I think a clear majority of people

Other Westminster Debate (continued)

support the idea of a national day of celebration” and that it should be a “celebration of what we like and love about living in this country.”

In addition, the Prime Minister himself stated, while he was serving as Chancellor of the Exchequer in January 2006, that we need “a united shared sense of purpose”. He argued in favour of having a national day, asking: “What is our equivalent for a national celebration of who we are and what we stand for?”

In 2007, the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), argued in favour of a British day, stating: “The point of it would be to celebrate the contribution that we all make to society.”

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/halltext/81112h0006.htm#08111244000003>

Ministerial Statement

Bridget Prentice (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice): Today the Government is publishing the response to the consultation Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007— Relevant Third Party. A relevant third party (RTP) is someone who can make an application on behalf of a victim of forced marriage without first requiring the permission of the court. Other applicants on behalf of a forced marriage victim must obtain the permission of the court.

Responses to the consultation generally supported the use of local authorities in England and Wales to act as the RTP for victims of forced marriage under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. The Government agree with this view. When designated, local authorities will be able to make applications without the court’s permission for forced marriage protection orders on behalf of someone who is or who has been forced into marriage.

While we believe that local authorities are best placed to serve as RTPs we recognise the role that the voluntary sector plays is an important one and should be explored further. The success of the independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) has shown how the voluntary sector can play a strong support role in helping those who are the subject of domestic violence in the criminal courts. While IDVAs are currently limited to the criminal court, they have expertise in dealing with issues like forced marriage, are experienced multi-agency workers and work under an accredited scheme. Therefore we will also carry out a pilot using a local IDVA scheme as an RTP. If this proves successful, we would look at extending the RTP provisions more widely across IDVAs as well as other voluntary sector organisations.

The Lord Chancellor may make an order specifying a person or description of persons who may act as a RTP under section 63C of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. An order will not be made until local authorities are sufficiently prepared to act as RTPs, having ensured that they will operate within an appropriate framework and in accordance with guidelines that help to safeguard the best interests of the victim.

During the time it will take for this to occur it will be possible for anyone, including local authorities, to apply on behalf of a victim if they obtain the court’s permission. This will ensure that victims of forced marriage can obtain the protection of the court where they cannot apply for a forced marriage protection order themselves. The court’s scrutiny of an application for permission to apply for an order will ensure that the victim’s best interests are safeguarded.

I have placed copies of the Government response to the consultation Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 - Relevant Third Party in the Libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081113/wmstext/81113m0001.htm#08111377000012>

Other Westminster (continued) Parliamentary Questions

Tim Loughton [234667]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many adoptions have taken place down in each of the last five years; (2) [234583] what the average age was of children of each ethnicity at time of adoption in the last year for which records are available.

Reply from Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of adoptions which have broken down is not collected centrally. When an adoption breaks down and a child returns to be looked after, for reasons of confidentiality, the local authority concerned will give the child a new identity code, which means that we cannot link post-adoption records to pre-adoption records.

The average age for children of each ethnicity at the time of adoption, for those adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008, is shown in the following table.

<i>Average age at adoption by ethnic origin for looked after children adopted during year ending 31 March 2008 , England</i>						
<i>Years:months</i>						
	<i>All children</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Other</i>
Average age	3:11	3:11	3:8	3:1	4:0	4:7
<i>Source:</i> SSDA903 return on children looked after.						

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081112/text/81112w0025.htm#08111251000032>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5443]: Whether British subjects who are also Irish nationals with Republic of Ireland passports living in Northern Ireland will be required to have United Kingdom identity cards; and [HL5442] Whether Irish nationals resident in Great Britain will be required, where appropriate, to obtain United Kingdom identity cards.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: During the second half of 2009, it is intended to start the roll out of identity cards to people applying to work in the secure airside area at certain airports and this would apply to British and Irish nationals who apply to work at those airports.

In the longer term, it is intended to roll out identity cards on an entirely voluntary basis and this will eventually mean that people resident in any part of the United Kingdom, whether British or Irish nationals, would be able to apply for an identity card. However, as with passports, only the cards issued to British nationals would be valid for travel within Europe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0002.htm#08111023000021>

Lord Laird asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5444]: What discussions they have held with the Government of the Republic of Ireland about United Kingdom identity cards being issued to Irish nationals living in Northern Ireland.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Home Office Ministers and officials have met their opposite numbers in the Irish Government from time to time and the Government's plan for the introduction of identity cards, including the impact on Irish nationals living in the United Kingdom, have been discussed in general terms at such meetings.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81110w0002.htm#08111023000021>

Other Westminster (continued) Parliamentary Questions

Mike Penning (234592): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many mosques (a) were registered and (b) had applied for registration to perform joint civil and religious marriage ceremonies at the most recent date for which figures are available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81110w01.htm>

Press Release

Preventing violent extremism: learning and development exercise

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1055379>

New publications

Home Affairs Committee Report: Policing in the 21st Century

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmhaff/364/364i.pdf>

Preventing Violent Extremism Learning and Development Exercise

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/prevent/downloads/prevent.pdf>

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New Publication

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2008

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/2324.pdf>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

**** Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Finance Committee consideration of the Financial Memorandum

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/finance/or-08/fi08-2502.htm#Col762>

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-2602.htm#Col1240>

Subordinate Legislation Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/or-08/su08-3102.htm#Col412>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

** Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, LGBT Domestic Abuse Project, Equality Network, Enable Scotland, Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office, Evangelical Alliance, Christian Institute, and CARE for Scotland. <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-08/ju08-2702.htm#Col1299>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

** Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/082/amend/ml082-ii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/093/amend/am093-a.htm>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81111-0006.htm#0811115000009>

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/093/2008093.pdf>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

UK Equality Bill (25 November 2008)

The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee will take evidence from Vera Baird QC MP, Solicitor General, on the UK Equality Bill and its implications for Scotland, on 2 December 2008. The Bill, which is expected to be introduced to the UK Parliament shortly, aims to “strengthen protection, advance equality and declutter the law”.

The Committee recognises that there is widespread interest in the Bill, and is keen to give key stakeholders an opportunity to submit questions for the Solicitor General. Send questions to equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk by 25 November, keeping them as brief as possible. Note that the Committee cannot guarantee that all questions submitted will be asked.

Religious and Moral Education (30 November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (30 November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities

(8 December 2008)

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/8248-Report%20-%20Health%20in%20our%20Multi-ethnic%20Scotland.pdf>

The Modern Scottish Jury in Criminal Trials (11 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238536/0065469.pdf>

Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2009 (19 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/240124/0066276.pdf>

Monitoring of Cross-border charities (23 December 2008)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=6990ead9-bbfc-427d-9f8c-3f3495363092>

Appendix 1 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=0be569cc-6efc-45f9-9829-43a784b3c6b7>

Appendix 2 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=11a26977-b23e-4c67-b083-6e3bd00c2d90>

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme (7 December)

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

online consultation <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

Consultations (continued)

**** UK Border Agency race, disability and gender equality scheme, 2009 to 2010**
(28 January 2008)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingforus/racedisability_genderscheme/

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Scotland's Migration Challenges: fit for a creative age?

21 November 2008 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 3.00)

Centre for Scottish Public Policy and East of Scotland European Consortium conference to discuss migration challenges Scotland faces with a dual focus on education and skills. For information contact info@cspp.org or see <http://cspp.org.uk/public/Policy/ProgrammesEurope.jsp> or

Statutory Review and Reconsideration Orders: Access to Justice for Asylum Seekers

24 November 2008 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Training event organised jointly by the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group, Scottish Refugee Council, and the Murray Stable. For more information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/GILPA_Training_Event or contact train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

St Andrew's Day anti-racism march and rally

29 November 2008 in Glasgow

March organised by the STUC to celebrate unity and challenge racism and fascism everywhere. For information see <http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/496/st-andrew-s-day-march-and-rally>

Scottish Muslim Futures

30 November 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 7.00)

Scottish Islamic Foundation conference to provide a forum for discussion on the present condition of the Muslim community and its future. For information see http://scottishislamic.org/images/events/061108180115_file_01.pdf or contact 0141 890 1120.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Discrimination Law Update

9 December 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Legal Services Agency seminar to provide an awareness and understanding of the up-to-date changes in discrimination law, consider the impact of these changes and how to apply those changes in the workplace, and consider any forthcoming changes to the law. For information see <http://www.lsa.org.uk/discriminationlawupdate.aspx> or contact 0141 353 3354.

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Glasgow

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 / graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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>

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/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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** 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. <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<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/>