

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 31 August 2009.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Asylum Seekers

George Foulkes: To ask the Scottish Executive what action has been taken since May 2007 to disperse asylum seekers from Glasgow to other local authority areas. (S3W-25336)

Reply from Alex Neil: Glasgow is the only local authority in Scotland which has a contract with the UK Border Agency to accommodate asylum seekers, therefore no action can be taken by the Scottish Government to disperse asylum seekers from Glasgow to other local authority areas.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-25336>

Westminster Debates

Refugees

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90713-0002.htm#0907139000449>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Debates (continued)

Enid Ruhango

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/debtext/90716-0021.htm#09071650000004>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Consultation (Charges)

Phil Woolas (Minister for Borders and Immigration): The biggest shake-up to our border protection and immigration system for over 45 years is well underway. The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, which will fundamentally overhaul the laws regarding obtaining British citizenship is currently progressing through Parliament. We will also look to simplify our immigration laws further through legislation to be published later this year in Parliament.

The UK Border Agency was established in April 2008 to create a strong new force at the border by bringing together immigration, customs and visa checks to strengthen the UK border. We want the UK to stay open and attractive for both business and visitors, but at the same time we are determined to deliver a system of border control which is among the strongest in the world.

Inward investment and tourism benefit Britain greatly. The Government are committed to boosting Britain's economy by bringing the right skills from around the world and ensuring that it is easy to visit legally. We want to continue to welcome the holidaymakers, visitors, business people and genuine students who come here, recognising the valuable contribution they make to economic growth and the way they enrich our society through cultural exchange.

For the immigration system to command public support, both among the British public and legitimate migrants, we need an immigration system that is fair and effective. The integrity of the immigration system depends on robust borders, with effective security overseas and in the UK ensuring and enforcing compliance with our immigration laws. To help achieve this, those who benefit directly from our immigration system (migrants, employers and educational institutions) should contribute to the costs of the system and enable us to meet our strategic objectives.

Later this summer the Government will publish a consultation document on charging for certain services we provide. To maintain our world class immigration system currently costs over £2.2 billion per annum. UK Border Agency currently recovers approximately 30 per cent. of this spend through fees for applications and services we offer. We believe it is right that users of that system make an appropriate contribution to meeting those costs, to help manage the burden on the UK taxpayer. The purpose of consulting is to ensure that we are getting that balance right in the broader interests of the UK.

The consultation document will set out some options on how we can charge for our services. We want a genuine debate on the most appropriate way to charge. We will be engaging with stakeholders throughout the consultation period in order to get the views and ideas from as many people as possible. Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available for downloading from the UK Border Agency website: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/consultations/current/>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0004.htm#09071651000037>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Baroness Warsi [HL4420]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were (a) arrested, and (b) convicted, in each of the past three years for assisting unlawful immigration.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Due to changes in the nature of the system used to record details of arrests made by the UK Border Agency, complete data are only available for the past two financial years.

In 2007-08, a total of 73 individuals were arrested by UK Border Agency staff on suspicion of an offence relating to the facilitation of unlawful entry into the UK (including trafficking); in 2008-09, 127 individuals were arrested for the same reason.

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

With regards to actual convictions, the Home Office publishes statistics on persons proceeded against for offences under immigration Acts, including offences relating to the facilitation of unlawful entry, in England and Wales annually. These National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Lord Rooker [HL4534]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many changes have been made to the UK Border Agency's visas website regarding application to enter the United Kingdom by overseas students since the new points-based system started on 31 March.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: We have made three substantive changes to the UK Border Agency's visa services website regarding entry as a student under tier four of the points-based system since it was implemented on 31 March 2009.

Lord Dholakia [HL4747]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to review immigration rules in order to deal with skill shortages facing the curry industry.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) advises Government on shortage occupations. Skilled chefs, including those in the curry industry, are currently on the shortage occupation list for tier two of the points-based system.

The Government have asked the MAC to review this entry by September 2009 and recommend whether it is sensible to continue to fill shortages of skilled chefs through migration. The Government will consider the MAC's recommendations carefully in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90714w0002.htm#09071475000416>

Immigration Controls

Damian Green [278550]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigrants entered the UK under Tier 2 of the points-based system in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: During 2008, a total of 91 visas were issued to non-EEA nationals for entry to the UK under tier 2 of the points-based system. Tier 2 was introduced on 27 November 2008.

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0037.htm#0907172000147>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Patrick Mercer [283783]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been prevented from entering the UK on grounds of (a) national security, (b) unacceptable behaviour, (c) public order and (d) serious criminality since July 2005.

Reply from Phil Woolas: A decision to prevent entry to the UK may be made at the entry clearance application stage, or when a person arrives at the port of entry. Additionally, prevention of entry on grounds of criminality may include foreign national prisoners who have either been deported from, or removed and subsequently excluded from, the United Kingdom.

There are no centrally held records which encompass the total number of foreign nationals who have been prevented from entering the UK, but I can confirm that since July 2005 the Home Secretary has excluded 163 individuals from the UK on the grounds of national security and 106 individuals on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

I can also confirm that 2,852 individuals were refused entry at the UK border on non-conducive grounds between 2005 and 2008. Figures for 2009 will not be published until the end of year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0037.htm#0907172000147>

Gurkhas

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL3272]: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they decided Gurkha soldiers must have 20 years military service to live in the United Kingdom when the standard length of Army service by Gurkhas is 15 years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: On 24 April 2009 the Government published guidance for caseworkers dealing with applications for settlement from Gurkhas who were discharged before 1 July 1997. Under this guidance one of the criteria was that anyone with 20 or more years of service could have settled in the UK.

The 20 years' service criteria recognised exceptional ability and quality of service as well as commitment, in particular from those who worked their way through the ranks and saw their service extended. However, it is not the case that this was the only criterion under which ex-Gurkhas may have qualified to settle under the terms of this guidance.

On 21 May 2009 the Home Secretary announced that any former Gurkha with more than four years' service who had been discharged from the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1 July 1997 would be eligible for settlement in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90716w0002.htm#09071657000470>

Migrant Workers

Damian Green [271366]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated in respect of (a) translation services and (b) advertising in job centres in respect of schemes to encourage migrant workers to return home.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Department does not operate any schemes to encourage migrant workers to return home. It follows that the Department has allocated no funding to date in respect of (a) translation services and (b) advertising in job centres in respect of such schemes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090714/text/90714w0009.htm#09071453000095>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Worker Registration Scheme

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4686]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reimburse European workers who have paid the Worker Registration Scheme fee and are then made redundant through their employers' businesses failing.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There are no plans to reimburse the worker registration scheme fee for those who are made redundant. The fee is designed to recover the cost of administering the scheme and is not linked to how long applicants remain in employment.

Those who are made redundant may seek alternative employment and reregister without charge. The fee applies only to initial applications and not to those who are registering a change of employment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90715w0006.htm#09071576000673>

Overseas Students

Charles Kennedy: [287059] What his latest estimate is of the number of overseas students in universities; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Lammy: According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, in total, there were 112,150 non-UK EU students and 229,640 from elsewhere studying in UK higher education institutions in 2007-08.

Charles Kennedy: Given the additional administrative and legal requirements that the Government have placed on all universities for the handling of visa requirements for overseas students, does the Minister recognise that there is additional complexity and inconsistency in the way in which these applications are handled in the various home countries? There is also the length of the appeal process to consider and the fact that if a foreign student studying at a university in Britain has to apply for an extension, they now have to go via the UK Border Agency at an average individual cost of £357. Does not all that cut against the university policy encouraged by the Government to win more overseas students to the UK generally?

Reply from David Lammy: The hon. Gentleman is right that there has been concern in the higher education sector about the new points-based system. We have worked consistently, particularly with Universities UK, to address those concerns. I am pleased that application rates are now equivalent to last year's levels and that the number of refusals has come down. There will be a meeting next week on 20 July between university vice-chancellors and the UK Border Agency to address any outstanding concerns, but there have been regular discussions and progress is being made as we make this transition.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/debtext/90716-0002.htm#09071650000032>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Visas

Baroness Warsi [HL4514]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many international students have had their student visas revoked in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The requested information is shown in the attached table.

Number of Student Visa applications that were curtailed between 2003 and 2008						
Decision Outcome	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Curtailed	7	9	7	8	5	13

Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

"+" Indicates 1 or 2; "-" Indicates Nil

Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90716w0004.htm#09071657000488>

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather [264019]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in receipt of section 4 support have been receiving it for a period longer than (a) six months, (b) one year, (c) two years, (d) five years and (e) 10 years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As at 14 June 2009 9,354 people, excluding dependants, are recorded as having been on section 4 support for over six months, of whom 7,598 had been on section 4 support for over one year and 5,106 for over two years. These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Information is not available on the number of persons on section 4 support for over five years and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. No person has been on section 4 support for over 10 years as this support for failed asylum seekers became effective from 7 November 2002.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090715/text/90715w0004.htm#09071567000055>

Asylum Seekers: Detention of Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4729]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children of asylum seekers were detained at Dungavel immigration removal centre and for what length of time in (a) January to June 2007, (b) July to December 2007, (c) January to June 2008, (d) July to December 2008, and (e) January to June 2009.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The information requested on the number of children of asylum seekers detained at Dungavel immigration removal centre and the periods for which they are detained is not yet centrally collated. The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90716w0001.htm#09071657000461>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Deportation

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL4707]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 1 June (WA 42—3), how many people they have tried to deport to (a) Jordan, (b) Libya, (c) Lebanon, (d) Ethiopia and (e) Algeria on the ground of national security; how many of those deportations have succeeded; how many have not; and what was the reason for each case which did not succeed.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Her Majesty's Government have undertaken deportation proceedings against (a) five Jordanian, (b) 12 Libyan, (c) no Lebanese, (d) one Ethiopian and (e) 18 Algerian nationals on the ground of national security. Eight of these individuals have been deported and 14 are at various stages of the appeals process.

There are 14 cases where deportation on national security grounds has been discontinued and these comprise; 12 Libyan cases following a court judgment; one case where the court found the individual concerned did not pose a threat to national security; and one case where the Secretary of State withdrew the deportation decision as it was considered the individual no longer posed a current threat to national security.

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL4708]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 1 June (WA 42—3), whether the memoranda of understanding on deportation with assurances they have signed with Jordan, Libya, Lebanon and Ethiopia allow legal deportation on the ground of national security; and, if so, why there have been appeals.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The Memoranda of Understanding referred to in my previous Answer formalise the arrangements for seeking assurances in respect of individuals whom the UK wishes to deport to one of these four countries or whom one of those countries wishes to deport to the UK.

A deportation from the United Kingdom is governed by the provisions of the immigration Acts. Under that legislation, a decision to make a deportation order attracts a right of appeal under either Section 82 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 or Section 2 of the Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act 1997.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90714w0002.htm#09071475000417>

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Damian Green [243113]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements his Department has made with the French Government to fly back to their country of origin potential illegal entrants into the United Kingdom from France; when he expects the first such flights to happen; how costs will be split between the Government and the French Government; and what payments in cash or benefits in kind will be made to those placed on such flights.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The United Kingdom (UK) continues to work with France—one of our closest European partners—in fighting illegal migration. Our shared determination has already created one of the toughest border crossings in the world at Calais. As part of this co-operation, the UK and France are assessing the feasibility of joint return flights to fly back to their country of origin potential illegal entrants who have no lawful basis with which to be in either country.

The UK Border Agency does not disclose information in advance about the dates or destinations of charter flights in order to ensure the safety and security of our own staff, our contractors, and those we are seeking to return. Additionally, the government of the country of origin may request that we do not publicise our operation as a condition of granting clearance for the flight. As there are currently

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

no firm arrangements in place for the UK and France to operate a joint flight, there has been no agreement about cost allocation or whether any payment to returnees is appropriate. Any details about costs or breakdown of costs to an airline contracted for the purpose of a joint flight would be regarded as commercially confidential.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090715/text/90715w0007.htm#09071567000076>

Human Trafficking

Ashok Kumar [285324]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has allocated for measures to tackle human trafficking in (a) the UK and (b) the North East in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Funding for the fight against human trafficking is not provided on a regional basis as the crime is one that affects all parts of the country and our response therefore has to be national and strategic in nature.

We have provided the UK Human Trafficking Centre with £5.7 million over period 2006 to the end of the current financial year.

Additionally, we fund the Serious Organised Crime Agency to the tune of £400 million per annum. SOCA has organised immigration crime, including human trafficking as its second highest priority.

From 2004 to the start of the current financial year we had given £5.8 million to Eaves Housing for Women to manage the support provisions for adult female victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This has been further supported by a further £3.7 million over the next two financial years to Eaves Housing to continue these services on a wider geographical basis.

Anthony Steen [280406]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds his Department has allocated to the Metropolitan Police's human trafficking team for (a) 2009-10 and (b) 2010-11; what recent discussions he has had with the Metropolitan Police on (i) funding for and (ii) staff levels in the human trafficking team; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Following negotiations with the Metropolitan Police, the Home Office agreed on an exceptional basis to provide an additional £435,000 for the current financial year.

Human trafficking is core police business. However, this money was granted in consideration of the fact that the Met, unlike the other forces, could not mainstream this work by the end of the last financial year and on the clear understanding that all anti-human trafficking work within the Met would be met from within their existing budget from 1 April 2010 onwards. The staffing levels are a matter for the Commissioner. The Metropolitan Police has developed a good relationship with the UK Human Trafficking Centre, which is the acknowledged centre of expertise on human trafficking issues and was established to co-ordinate the law enforcement response to this crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090714/text/90714w0009.htm#09071453000093>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Ashok Kumar [285323]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of human trafficking have been recorded in (a) the UK and (b) the North East in each year since 1997.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate that within the UK there have been a total of 384 people dealt with by the criminal justice system on arrest for human trafficking. A total of 106 people have been arrested for trafficking for sexual exploitation, three for conspiracy to traffic and seven for trafficking for forced labour.

Of these, seven people have to date been arrested within the north east with two convicted of human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0037.htm#0907172000145>

Human Trafficking: Babies

Margaret Moran [273057]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the adequacy of legislation on the trafficking of babies into the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Following discussions with the Crown Prosecution Service we have introduced a clause in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill to amend Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004.

This amendment will allow for the prosecution, under trafficking legislation, of those who bring small children or vulnerable adults into the country for the purpose of obtaining benefits, and where the role of the child or vulnerable adult is entirely passive.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090715/text/90715w0007.htm#09071567000074>

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Shailesh Vara [282151]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 192W, on human trafficking, how many people from each country were (a) arrested for and (b) convicted of human trafficking offences in each of the last five years.

Reply from Alan Campbell: The numbers of arrests and convictions for human trafficking broken down by country of origin is set out in the following table:

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090715/text/90715w0007.htm#09071567000075>

Press Releases

Proposed changes to the law on citizenship

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/july/proposed-changes-to-law?area=allNews>

Points-based system: approved English language tests for Tier 1 and Tier 2

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/july/english-language-tests-t1-t2?area=allNews>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

New evidence shows extent of skills being wasted by not allowing asylum seekers to work

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Right_to_work_PR

Children and migration – protecting rights for a better future

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/ChildrendAndMigration.aspx>

New publication

Joint Parliamentary Briefing from the British Refugee Council, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Welsh Refugee Council: Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill 2009

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/BCI_Bill_Reading_3

News

New bid to deport asylum seeker, 4, from birth country

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2519554.0.New_bid_to_deport_asylum_seeker_4_from_birth_country.php

Fast-track citizenship law worries volunteer groups

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/919707/Fast-track-citizenship-law-worries-volunteer-groups/F38C537279B82616C0F1C515F5168BC2/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

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Equality

Ministerial Speech

The Rt Hon John Denham MP (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) to the REACH Conference

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/reachprogress>

Press Releases

Long term Government commitment will turnaround achievements of young Black men - John Denham

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1281676>

Commission launches three-year strategic plan

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/commission-launches-three-year-strategic-plan/>

Equality (continued) New publications

Black role models: which messages work?

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1281168.pdf>

An experimental test of the impact of Black role model messages: Technical report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1281347.pdf>

REACH: Guidance

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1281230.pdf>

REACH: Update report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1281208.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2009-2012

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/strategicplan2009-2012parliamentary.pdf

News

Equality quango in turmoil as two quit

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6719184.ece>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Extremist Organisations

Lord Ouseley [HL4771]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they propose to take to counter the level of racially biased materials being disseminated by extremist organisations with the aim of increasing prejudice, hatred and violence.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In February 2009, a ministerial seminar agreed a cross-governmental action plan to address community concerns about anti-Semitic and other hate material circulated on the internet. It recognised the challenges and need to balance freedom of speech with a responsibility to tackle illegal material whose purpose is incitement.

The plan is being overseen by the Home Office Minister Alan Campbell and has been incorporated into the cross-governmental Hate Crime Action Plan which is to be launched Autumn 2009.

More broadly, the police and, where necessary, the security services, already monitor and evaluate the words and actions of individuals and organisations preaching racially and religiously inflammatory messages and take action where appropriate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90714w0002.htm#09071475000410>

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Police: Racism

Lord Ouseley [HL4769]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Service are complying with guidance on tackling and eliminating racism from the police service in London.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In November 2008, the then policing Minister published an assessment of minority ethnic recruitment, retention and progression across the police service, including the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), setting out a programme of positive action which is being taken forward by a ministerial-led group.

The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), like all police authorities, has a vital role in setting local strategic priorities in consultation with all communities and holding police forces to account for the service they deliver.

An additional duty proposed in the Policing and Crime Bill will ensure that communities' views on policing are representative, including of minority groups, and are at the core of police authorities' work. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) will begin a programme of inspections of police authorities, including the MPA, in 2009 to assess in part how well they are engaging communities and ensuring that all local groups have access to policing services.

The equality standard for the police service will be rolled out to the police service later this year. This will help police forces to build on the considerable progress that has been made and increase their performance on equality and diversity. HMIC will undertake a major workforce inspection of all police forces, including the MPS, in 2010. This inspection—working for the public—will cover implementation of the equality standard.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90715w0005.htm#09071576000660>

News

BNP chief denies wanting 'all-white' Britain

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2519494.0.BNP_chief_denies_wanting_allwhite_Britain.php

Pole in 'serious condition' in hospital after racist murder bid

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Pole-in-39serious-condition39-in.5452367.jp>

Plea after 'brutal' racist attack

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/8147157.stm

'No racial divide' despite attack

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1306584>

Appeal over 'horrific' racist attack

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1308472>

Polish man attack 'was a one off'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/8152527.stm

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Man is charged following attack on Polish citizen

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1312180>

Neo-Nazi convicted of terror plan

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8152159.stm>

What had white supremacist planned?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8150619.stm>

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Other Holyrood

Freedom of Information release

Scottish Government staff – diversity information on religion or belief

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/FOI/Disclosures/2009/07/Diversity>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Gypsies and Travellers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090714/halltext/90714h0010.htm#09071447000005>

Ministerial Statement

Gypsies and Travellers

Shahid Malik (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government): The Government have today published their first annual report on Gypsy and Traveller policies, as set out in its response to the Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers.

Copies of the report have been placed in the Library of the House.

The Government are committed to a fairer, stronger society, in which disadvantage faced by all members of society is tackled. Fairness means ensuring that those Gypsies and Travellers who have no authorised place to stay have the same opportunities as others to a place they can call home, together with the same access to educational, health and other services. It means also that residents in local communities should not have to cope with the unauthorised developments and encampments that can be the consequence of a shortfall in authorised sites.

The report confirms that the framework put in place by the Government provides the tools to enable local authorities to tackle both the shortfall in site provision, and instances of unauthorised developments and encampments where they occur. The Government have published clear guidance to enable local authorities and other agencies to make effective use of the wide range of enforcement powers available to them. They now look

Other Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

to local authorities to be proactive in taking the lead in addressing the shortfall by identifying, in consultation with local communities, appropriate locations for sites which will have the twin benefits of creating homes for Gypsies and Travellers, and reducing the number of unauthorised developments which can be the cause of local community tensions.

The identification of authorised sites will also enable local authorities to reduce the costs of enforcement action related to unauthorised encampments, as well as providing access to even stronger enforcement powers when there are available pitches to which unauthorised campers can be moved. The savings from the reduction in enforcement action can then be deployed to other services to the benefit of the broader community, or reduced levels of council tax.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0001.htm#09071651000024>

Parliamentary Questions

Forced Marriages: Victim Support Schemes

Claire Curtis-Thomas [284797]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the Forced Marriage Unit's effectiveness in reducing the number of forced marriages; and how many forced marriages reported to the unit involved people under 16 years old in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Bryant: The Forced Marriage Unit has been a great success in encouraging people to report potential instances of forced marriage, in intervening in specific cases and in getting across the message that forced marriage is not acceptable in any culture or any religion.

The very nature of forced marriage means that it is likely that a number of cases go unreported. In recent years Government action to address forced marriage has focused on encouraging victims and potential victims to come forward and seek help.

Partly as result of growing awareness of the support available, the number of cases coming to our attention is rising. Last year the Forced Marriage Unit, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office Unit, received over 1,600 reports of suspected incidences of forced marriage to its helpline. Of these the unit directly intervened to help victims in 420 cases, which included overseas assistance and support to reluctant sponsors in immigration cases. 14 per cent. of overseas assistance cases involved people under 16 years old.

So far this year, figures for January to June show that the unit received 770 calls to its helpline in relation to incidence of forced marriage, which represents an increase in those seeking help of 16 per cent. over the same period last year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0014.htm#09071664000115>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Islam

Ben Wallace [286106]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department is giving to the independent Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board to raise standards in mosques; what objectives have been set for such standards; and how much his Department has budgeted for such support activities.

Reply from Shahid Malik: The Department for Communities and Local Government provided support to the independent Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB). MINAB are a community-led organisation and we supported them to develop standards for mosques, which were widely consulted on and piloted. In addition, we supported the development of their operational plan and their first Annual General Meeting.

We allocated the following sums to MINAB: £75,600 in 2007-08; £116,000 in 2008-09; and £58,000 between April and June 2009.

Further information about MINAB, including their five standards, can be found on their website: www.minab.org.uk

Ben Wallace [286107]: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Radical Middle Way (a) roadshows and (b) other events have taken place in the UK and overseas since 2007; where they have taken place; what the cost of each has been; what assessment has been made of the outcome of each event; and for what dates future such shows have been scheduled.

Reply from Shahid Malik: From October 2007 to June 2008 the RMW held a total of 34 road show events and a number of other formal and informal meetings with domestic and international scholars and speakers in the following locations: London; Luton; Leicester; Birmingham; Liverpool; Bradford; Peterborough; Milton Keynes; Woking; and Manchester.

CLG and FCO provided funding of £250,000 to the project in 2007-08 to support the programme of events including support for the RMW website (£12,000) and external evaluation.

From June 2008 to May 2009 the RMW held a total of 48 road show events and a number of formal and informal meetings with domestic and international scholars and speakers in the following locations: Blackburn; Bradford; Cambridge; London; Birmingham; Peterborough; Hounslow; High Wycombe; Leicester; Manchester; Milton Keynes; Slough; Derby; Bristol; Rochdale.

CLG has provided funding of £350,000 to the project to support the programme of events. This also included support for the RMW website and an external evaluation.

RMW held their first international road show to Sudan in April 2009, reaching an estimated 25,000 people through six large public events. The FCO provided £70,000 to support this road show and the RMW are planning further pilot road shows in Sudan, Indonesia and Pakistan by end October. The pilot phase of the international project will be evaluated by an independent company.

The RMW project is subject to an independent external evaluation following each phase. Communities and Local Government are currently in the process of determining the future direction of this particular work stream in its domestic context.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0024.htm#0907172000047>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Islam: Faith Schools

Ben Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which community based organisations are involved in the development of citizenship education in mosque schools; and where each such organisation is based. [286108]

Reply from Shahid Malik: The organisation that is leading this project is the School Development Support Agency based in Leicester.

The SDSA instituted an Advisory Group with representation from various community based organisations. They include the following:

Ahul Bayt Foundation (London)

Al-Khoei Foundation (London)

Al Mahdi Institute (Birmingham)

British Muslim Forum (National)

Building Bridges (Pendle)

Citizenship Foundation (London)

ContinYou (Coventry)

Islamic Foundation (Markfield, Leicestershire)

Karimia Institute (Nottingham)

Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (National)

Muslim College (London)

Muslim Council of Britain (National)

National Muslim Women Advisory Group (National)

NIDA Education Trust (London)

Sufi Muslim Council (Rochdale)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/text/90716w0025.htm#0907172000048>

New publications

Progress Report on Gypsy and Traveller Policy

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1284500>

Gypsy and Traveller Site Management Good Practice Guide

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1284475>

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New Publication

Our Stories Our Lives

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/our-stories-our-lives>

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Other News

Profile of the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy BUZEK

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/yourMep/view.do?language=EN&partNumber=1&name=buzek&id=28269>

Other News (continued)

Profiles of the leaders of the European Parliament's political groups

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/focus_page/008-58035-201-07-30-901-20090710FCS58034-20-07-2009-2009/default_en.htm

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Arbitration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/115/amend/psc1151007a.1163-1169.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/115/amend/psc1151407m.1177-1183.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/086/pro0861806p.17-22.html>

House of Commons Report Stage debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090714/debtext/90714-0007.htm#09071451000002>

House of Commons Third Reading debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090714/debtext/90714-0018.htm>

** Crown Employment (Nationality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/crownemploymentnationality.html>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/039/amend/psc0391007a.1.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/039/pro039071509.1-2.html>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/141/2009141.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

** Equality Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/equality.html>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/131/amend/pbc1311007a.1161-1162.html>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive (28 July 2009)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation (6 August 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary

Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (20 August 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273788/0081826.pdf>

Equality Bill: Policy Proposals for Specific Duties (30 September)

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/Specific%20Duties%20Consultation%20DocumentWEB.pdf>

Freedom of Information: Improving Openness (30 September)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/278119/0083564.pdf>

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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

BA in Community Development

Closing date for applications: 3 August 2009

The University of Glasgow and BEMIS have reached an agreement that will see BEMIS facilitating support for trainees through a 36 month degree course focusing on Community Learning & Development complemented by extra direct training days/workshops styles. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/09vii_bemis.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

8 October 2009 in Glasgow

8 December 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

Postive Action in Housing AGM

4 September 2009 in Glasgow (11.00)

For information contact home@paih.org

Working with Interpreters

22 September in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Third Sector Research Conference

26 October 2009 in Edinburgh (9.45 – 5.00)

Conference organised by SCVO in conjunction with the Centre for Public Services Research, Edinburgh University Business School to connect researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to ensure Scotland's Voluntary Sector has the latest knowledge and research at its fingertips. For information contact Ian Lees ian.lees@scvo.org.uk

To find out how to submit a paper for the conference see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Information/ViewInformation.aspx?al=t&page=&all=&from=DSR&Info=1946&TCID=30&PageName=Impact>

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

12 November 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Charity Accounts and Reporting to OSCR

30 November 2009 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar to look at what OSCR expects from charities in terms of compliance. For information contact Jane Baillie 0131 474 8019 / jane.baillie@scvo.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/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



BEMIS is the national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body supporting the development of the Ethnic Minorities Third Sector and the communities that this sector represents in Scotland. BEMIS aims: to empower and build the capacity of minority formal and informal community organisations, to be proactive in influencing policy development in relation to race equality agenda in Scotland (strategic partnership role to the Government), and to help develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



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