

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to hold discussions with the UK Border Agency regarding the ending of its contract with Glasgow City Council for asylum seekers in light of the impact on services in Glasgow. (S3W-37463)

Reply from Alex Neil: The ending of the contract is a matter between the UK Border Agency and Glasgow City Council. However, the Scottish Government is clear that asylum seekers dispersed to Scotland are treated fairly and humanely and whilst they are in Scotland must be welcomed and supported.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-37463>

Human Trafficking

Christina McKelvie (Central Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on human trafficking. (S3O-12310)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Kenny MacAskill): Trafficking in human beings is an abhorrent crime that has no place in a civilised society. Tackling that form of serious organised crime is a priority for the Government and we are working with others with the aim of eradicating it in Scotland. That work is

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

being led by the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, which we have provided with £4million of additional funding to boost its capacity to tackle organised crime. The agency has established a human trafficking unit, which is Scotland's first expert resource dedicated to building the intelligence necessary to improve and support the investigation of human trafficking. The Scottish Government is also supporting the Equality and Human Rights Commission's inquiry into human trafficking in Scotland, which is led by Baroness Helena Kennedy.

Christina McKelvie: I ask the cabinet secretary to take account of recent evidence to the Equal Opportunities Committee from Amnesty International and in the anti-trafficking monitoring group report that suggests that the national referral mechanism does not cater for children's needs. Does he agree with the aforementioned organisations that local authority child protection services should determine the trafficked status of children and not the UK Border Agency?

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: Trafficking is a complex matter on which it is appropriate that we all try to work together. I said in my evidence to the Equal Opportunities Committee that the important issue was which system was best for the victim. That means that we have to be able to deal with particular localities and work with local authorities.

On the separate UKBA point, it is a matter of record that Ms McKelvie, the First Minister, the Government and, I believe, most members in the chamber are deeply discomfited by some of the actions that the UKBA is taking. We must always remember that we are dealing with victims, and that applies most particularly when we are dealing with those who are vulnerable, such as children.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): I am sure that the minister is aware of the connection between the trafficking of people into this country and the demand for prostitution. Indeed, there is evidence of women who are brought in for domestic services and who end up being forced into prostitution. In the light of that connection, will he make a commitment to consider the proposal for a bill lodged by Trish Godman, which seeks to address the whole issue of criminalising the purchasing of sex, and to do all that he can to support the intention behind the proposal? Such a bill would have an impact on the likelihood of people being trafficked into the country.

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: I think that this Government has already dealt with the issue of on-street prostitution. We legislated on that issue early on, and we increased the penalties for those involved in running brothels and in other such matters in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

We are aware that, in many ways, off-street prostitution is tied in with human trafficking and, indeed, with serious organised crime. It is for that reason, as I said in answer to Christina McKelvie, that we have been operating with Baroness Helena Kennedy, who is carrying out an investigation and to whom I have given evidence. Our justice directorate, the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and the Crown are fully supporting her. We should await the outcome of her review; thereafter, I think that it would be appropriate for us, as a chamber, to seek to act upon it.

Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD): Does the cabinet secretary consider that there is enough awareness and expertise yet among the agencies that deal with trafficking? He will recall the difference between the lack of prosecutions and convictions in Scotland that previous figures have indicated and the reasonably substantial evidence of the problem indicated in the figures from organisations such as the trafficking awareness raising alliance. Have there been any prosecutions or convictions for human trafficking in Scotland yet? Can he give us any other assurances about the level of awareness among the agencies of such activity?

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Solicitor General for Scotland advises me that there have been convictions, and we are also aware of people in Scotland who have been involved in Northern Ireland, where a Scottish gang was convicted. We clearly co-operate with the authorities, such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the justice directorate across the Irish channel.

We know that matters are on-going, but we are dealing with people who are often frightened and who, in many instances, have a different view of the police and the prosecution than we do in this country. We have to raise awareness, but there are some areas of the country where it is perhaps less prevalent than it is in others.

I think that I can give Mr Brown, who I know has pursued the matter doggedly, an absolute assurance that all of us, whether in the SCDEA, the Crown Office, the voluntary agencies or, indeed, the chamber, are looking to learn what the extent of the problem is. That is what we are looking to establish through Baroness Helena Kennedy's investigation, which we will seek to act on, whether by providing resources—albeit that this is a time of financial austerity—by making legislative changes or by addressing attitudes. I think that there is a common will in Scotland, as in the chamber, that trafficking is abhorrent and that we have to deal with it.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1209-02.htm#Col31446>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-7537 Christina McKelvie: Every Single Woman, Equal Treatment for Women Seeking Asylum—That the Parliament commends the Govan and Craigton Integration Network on the launch of its postcard campaign, which asks the UK Government to provide comparable standards of treatment and support for asylum-seeking women who have been subjected to domestic and sexual violence with that provided for women settled in the United Kingdom; notes that the artwork on the postcards has been created by refugee and asylum-seeker women; considers that it is unacceptable that women seeking asylum who have been victims of rape and domestic abuse, who are pregnant or who are in prison are denied the same level of care and treatment that is provided to other women; further believes that strategies to end violence against women should apply to all women, including asylum seekers, and supports Govan and Craigton Integration Network's efforts to secure this outcome.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20362>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Human Trafficking

The Solicitor-General (Mr Edward Garnier): On Tuesday 30 November 2010 at oral parliamentary questions, my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah) asked me to "explain why the Government did not sign the EU Directive" on human trafficking, *Official Report*, column 661. I responded that we had signed it. The hon. Member raised the matter again as a point of order on 1 December, *Official Report*, column 821. As I made clear in my answer there is more than one instrument.

For the avoidance of doubt and confusion I set out here the UK's position: There are two European instruments currently in force and one proposal for an instrument.

The EU framework decision on combating trafficking in human beings was adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2002. Member states had two years to implement the framework decision, including through any legislation. My right hon. Member for Sheffield

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

Brightside and Hillsborough (Mr Blunkett) was the Home Secretary at this time.

The UK signed up to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in March 2007 when the right hon. and noble Lord Reid of Cardowan was Home Secretary. It was ratified in December 2008 and came into force in April 2009 when the former Member for Redditch (Jacqui Smith) was Home Secretary.

In July this year the Government decided not to opt in to the draft EU Directive on combating human trafficking; a different instrument. If the Government conclude later that the directive would help us fight human trafficking, we can apply to opt in after it has been adopted. Negotiations on the text are at an advanced stage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101202/wmstext/101202m0001.htm#10120232000016>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish a pilot scheme to enable sponsors of visitors to the UK on short-term visas to post a security bond; and if she will make a statement. [26285]

Reply from Damian Green: The main requirements for entry to the UK as a general visitor are to satisfy the Border Force officer that they intend to stay for a limited period and leave the UK at the end of their stay, that they do not intend to work or study and that they can support and accommodate themselves and any dependants from funds available to them and without recourse to public funds.

For family visitors, the UK Border Agency check that they generally intend to visit their sponsor in the UK, and that if necessary the sponsor will be able to maintain and accommodate them. We have no plans to go beyond this with further formal requirements such as a security bond.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#10112930000012>

Immigration: Appeals

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals before the Immigration and Asylum tribunal were adjourned because no representative of her Department was present in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [27762]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of appeals which were adjourned because no Home Department representative was present (in each of the last five years for which figures are available) are:

Adjournments where no Home Office representative was present (percentage of all adjournments)

	<i>AIT immigration judge stage</i>		<i>AIT reconsideration stage</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
2005-06	51	0.44	9	0.28
2006-07	86	0.75	12	0.28
2007-08	47	0.56	20	0.47
2008-09	77	0.85	11	0.32
2009-10	92	1.02	20	0.54

Note: The percentage figures show the percentage of the total adjournments for the year.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

On 15 February 2010, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal became part of the unified Tribunal system. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) Immigration Judge stage is equivalent to the First-Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and the AIT reconsideration stage is equivalent to the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber).

The statistical information provided is taken from locally held management information provided by the Tribunals Service. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and its validity is completely reliant on the quality and timeliness of the information held on the database.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to increase the level of her Department's representation at appeals before the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal. [27766]

Reply from Damian Green: There is a difference in representation rates between the first-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) where all hearings are represented. At the first-tier appeal hearings are prioritised for representation initially on the basis of harm.

There are a number of initiatives to increase representation at the first-tier Tribunal. We are currently in the process of training asylum case-owners to handle a wider range of appeal types. This will provide a flexible resource whereby case-owners can be utilised to increase overall representation in court.

Work is also under way looking at how UK Border Agency can balance its presenting resource with the demand for appeals in regional hearing centres. We are working with the Tribunals Service looking at the forecasted volume and location of hearings to ensure that ties up with UK Border Agency's available resource.

Other work has also been undertaken recently to analyse the productivity of our presenting resources with the aim of identifying ways to improve performance through introducing new working practices, some of which will be driven through modernising our IT systems.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101206/text/101206w0004.htm#10120633000019>

Immigration: Sham Marriages

Baroness Sharples: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of sham marriages.

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, we are working closely with civil registrars and members of the clergy to identify potential suspicious marriages at the earliest opportunity and prevent these marriages taking place. We will seek to disrupt a marriage if we cannot prevent it taking place. We are also taking a more rigorous approach to caseworking, interviewing more applicants to refuse and remove those who seek to gain an immigration advantage from a sham marriage. ...

The Lord Bishop of Newcastle: My Lords, the Church of England deplores any abuse of the marriage service for immigration reasons, whether in a civil or a religious setting. We are committed to working closely with the UK Border Agency to prevent such incidents happening in future. The bishops will be meeting in a few days to assess whether the clergy need to be given further guidance. Will the Minister give us an assurance that the border agency will make available to us as much support, guidance and advice as necessary? Will he also assure us that no action will be taken that will make it harder for parish clergy to conduct genuine marriages?

Reply from Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, I thank the right reverend Prelate for that supplementary question. UKBA is working closely with the Church of England, briefing clergy and raising awareness of this increasing problem. I

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

stress that this is a criminal activity by organised gangs, working transnationally. The discovery that the Church of England had a different arrangement from civil registrars was part of what led to a diversion of activity to try to exploit that gap. Noble Lords will be aware of two high-profile cases in the past year that involved this, and which reflect the actions that UKBA has been taking. We are grateful for the co-operation that the Church of England has given in raising awareness among the clergy of these attempts.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101202-0001.htm#10120240000727>

Non-EU Immigration

Robert Buckland (South Swindon) (Con): What steps she plans to take to reduce annual immigration from states outside the EU to the tens of thousands. [28270]

Sheryll Murray (South East Cornwall) (Con): What steps she plans to take to reduce annual immigration from states outside the EU to the tens of thousands. [28275]

Karen Bradley (Staffordshire Moorlands) (Con): What steps she plans to take to reduce annual immigration from states outside the EU to the tens of thousands. [28281]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced to the House a fortnight ago, we are introducing a new permanent limit on non-EU economic migrants, with a reduction in the number of visas next year from 28,000 to 21,700. We are also taking action to tighten our immigration system across all the key routes-work, students and family-and will make settlement in this country a privilege to be earned.

Robert Buckland: ... What evidence has he found of abuse in the points-based immigration system that was introduced by the previous Government?

Reply from Damian Green: Regrettably, there is large-scale abuse. For instance, we looked at a sample of the migrants who came here last year in tier 1, which is meant to cover the brightest and the best of highly skilled migrants, and nearly a third of them were doing completely unskilled jobs. We have also found widespread abuse in the student system. That tells us that we must refine and smarten the points-based system that was left to us by the previous Government so that it does the job of ensuring that we get immigration numbers down to sustainable levels.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101206/debtext/101206-0001.htm#1012067000018>

Immigration

Lord Taylor of Warwick: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether organisations will be able to exempt a migrant from the proposed immigration cap.[HL4435]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Organisations will not be able to exempt migrants from the limit on an ad hoc basis. Only specified exemptions will exist.

As the Government announced on 23 November, the tier 2 (general) category of the points-based system will be subject to a limit of 20,700 places for 2011-12.

The following will be exempt from the limit:

specified in-country applications; dependants; tier 2 (intra-company transfer) applicants who will be paid more than £40,000, or where they are paid more than £24,000 and are coming for less than 12 months; tier 2 (general) applicants filling a vacancy that attracts a salary of more than £150,000; tier 2 (minister of religion) applicants; and tier 2 (sports person) applicants.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

There will also be a limit of 1,000 in the new exceptional talent category of tier 1 of the points-based system. Only dependants will be exempt from the limit for this category. The tier 1 categories for investors and entrepreneurs will not be limited.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101203w0001.htm#10120331000313>

Immigration

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to allow students from Commonwealth countries to remain in the UK after they graduate. [27174]

Reply from Damian Green: As the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) announced in her statement to Parliament of 23 November 2010, Official Report, columns 169-86, the Government will shortly launch a public consultation on proposed changes to the student visa arrangements. The consultation will seek views on the future of the Tier 1 Post Study Work category, the current scheme that allows international students who have achieved certain qualifications to stay in the UK and work for up to two years after they have completed their studies.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w002.htm#1011293000015>

Immigration

Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are available to her to restrict the level of immigration from other EU member states. [26882]

Reply from Damian Green: The right to free movement is not unlimited; European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) nationals must be exercising a Treaty right as a worker, a self-employed or self-sufficient person or a student if they wish to reside in the UK beyond three months.

The EU Accession Treaties for countries that have joined the EU since 2004 include a temporary derogation that allows individual member states to restrict accession workers' access to the labour market for up to five years, or up to seven years if justified on labour market grounds. This Government are committed to applying transitional controls on access to the UK labour market as a matter of course in the future to all new EU member states.

Under transitional arrangements currently in place, workers from the Central and Eastern European countries that acceded to the EU in 2004 must register their employment in the UK within one month. This scheme must end by 30 April 2011.

Workers from Romania and Bulgaria, which acceded to the EU on 1 January 2007, must seek authorisation to work from the UK Border Agency and meet the required criteria. These restrictions will remain in force until 31 December 2011 and may be extended for a further two years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101201/text/101201w001.htm#10120163000041>

Immigration

Lord Lucas: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pupils studying full time at an independent school affiliated to the International Schools Council have subsequently become illegal immigrants.[HL3880]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The Government do not collect this information. Matters relating to illegal immigration are a matter for the Home Office and the United Kingdom Border Agency.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Since the dismantling of embarkation controls it has not been possible to estimate accurately the number of people, such as students, who have overstayed their limited leave to enter or remain in the UK.

The wider immigration programme, contained in The Coalition: Our Programme for Government, published on 20 May, includes a commitment to support e-Borders and reintroduce entry and exit checks.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how the change from the present transitional arrangements to "habitual residence" will affect (a) A8 migrants already in the United Kingdom, and (b) A8 migrants who arrive after May 2011.[HL4494]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The worker registration scheme must end no later than 30 April 2011. On its termination, A8 nationals' rights of residence as workers will no longer be linked to registration under the scheme. This will be the case irrespective of whether the A8 worker arrived before or after the date on which the scheme ends or whether the individual is currently registered under it at that point in time.

Once the scheme has ended, A8 nationals will be treated in exactly the same way as other EU nationals. EU nationals, including A8 nationals, who make a claim for income-related benefits, social housing and homelessness assistance or housing support will be subject to the habitual residence test.

Lord Lucas

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many candidates for immigration have a GCSE or International GCSE in English.[HL4603]

Baroness Neville-Jones: We do not hold statistics on the numbers of migrants who have a GCSE or International GCSE in English when they apply for or are granted immigration leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101201w0001.htm#10120141000324>

Immigration: Refugees

The Earl of Sandwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have been resettled in the United Kingdom under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the past three years; what monitoring has been carried out; and what is their estimate of (a) how many are unemployed, and (b) how many skilled refugees have been given employment.[HL4643]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The UK Border Agency works with the UNHCR to resettle to the UK up to 750 refugees per financial year, who have been identified as being in particular need of resettlement. Those resettled under the Gateway protection programme include former employees of the British forces in Iraq and many vulnerable refugees who have experienced rape, torture or have witnessed the killing of family members:

total arrivals in 2007 calendar year 463;

total arrivals in 2008 calendar year 642;

total arrivals in 2009 calendar year 867;

total arrivals in 2007-08 financial year 416;

total arrivals in 2008-09 financial year 684; and

total arrivals in 2009-10 financial year 677

Resettlement figures for 2010 will only be published in Q4 2010 bulletin on 24 February 2011.

UKBA at present meets the full cost of resettlement in the first year, providing an integration support package including housing, healthcare, education and casework support services. Most post-arrival services are provided by partner NGOs, who work closely with the participating local authorities. National figures

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

relating to the employment of individuals entering the UK under the Gateway programme are not collected. We receive quarterly reports from participating NGOs which show that a very small proportion (10 per cent) of those resettled gain paid employment in the first year, although a number (25 per cent) undertake voluntary work. UKBA does not secure employment on behalf of resettled refugees. They are signposted to mainstream services and have the same opportunities as any other UK resident. We do not monitor Gateway refugees beyond the first year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101203w0001.htm#10120331000315>

Ministerial Correction: Asylum: Children

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK Border Agency offices provide child care when asylum seekers are being interviewed; and what plans she has for the future of that provision. [16932]

[\[Official Report, 13 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 299-300W.\]](#)

Letter of correction from Mr Damian Green:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) on 13 October 2010.

The answer given was as follows:

Damian Green: We are committed to ensuring that parents who are being interviewed about their reasons for seeking protection are not placed in the position of having to give an account of personal victimisation or humiliation in the presence of their children. In general, applicants are advised in their letter of invitation not to bring their children to the interview but to make alternative arrangements. For some families, child care will be easier to arrange-in London, for example, the majority of asylum applicants are able to reside with family and friends and as a result have a wider support network for child care. We do recognise, however, that this will not be possible for all families.

At present, the only UK Border Agency building that provides child care facilities when a parent is being interviewed about their asylum claim is in the North West. Additionally, however, in the West Midlands, the UK Border Agency is currently in the final stages of discussions with the Children's Society and hope to be in a position to provide a supervised play facility for the dependents of interviewees by January 2011. If these facilities prove successful and cost effective, we will consider extending this approach to other offices.

The answer should have been:

Damian Green: We are committed to ensuring that parents who are being interviewed about their reasons for seeking protection are not placed in the position of having to give an account of personal victimisation or humiliation in the presence of their children. In general, applicants are advised in their letter of invitation not to bring their children to the interview but to make alternative arrangements.

For some families, child care will be easier to arrange-in London, for example, the majority of asylum applicants are able to reside with family and friends and as a result have a wider support network for child care. We do recognise, however, that this will not be possible for all families.

At present, the UK Border Agency provides child care facilities when a parent is being interviewed about their asylum claim in the north-west, Wales and south-west, Leeds and in Glasgow.

Additionally, however, in the west midlands, the UK Border Agency is currently in the final stages of discussions with the Children's Society and hope to be in a

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

position to provide a supervised play facility for the dependents of interviewees by January 2011. If these facilities prove successful and cost-effective, we will consider extending this approach to other offices.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/corrtxt/101129c0001.htm#1011295000003>

Asylum: Glasgow

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on the recent cancellation of a contract with Glasgow city council to house and support asylum seekers in Glasgow. [28240]

Reply from David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular contact with ministerial colleagues in the Home Office on matters related to immigration and asylum. In addition, senior officials in the Scotland Office have regular discussions with the UK Border Agency's Director for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the leader of Glasgow city council on the recent cancellation of a UK Border Agency contract with that council to house and support asylum seekers in Glasgow. [28239]

Reply from David Mundell: Both I and the Secretary of State for Scotland have had meetings with Councillor Gordon Matheson, the leader of Glasgow city council, most recently on 4 November, and discussed a range of matters of importance to Glasgow.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101202/text/101202w001.htm#10120241000033>

Asylum Seekers

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow Central) (Lab): What discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on the cancellation of its contract with Glasgow city council to provide services to asylum seekers. [26708]

Pete Wishart (Perth and North Perthshire) (SNP): What recent discussions he has had with the UK Border Agency on the welfare of asylum seekers in Scotland. [26711]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): The Secretary of State and I are in regular contact with the Home Office on matters relating to asylum seekers. I understand that the UK Border Agency is working closely with support organisations in Glasgow to ensure that there is minimum disruption to those affected by the termination of UKBA's housing contract with Glasgow city council.

Anas Sarwar: I thank the Minister for that answer. Does he think it acceptable that no detailed discussions were held between UKBA and either Ypeople or the Angel Group ahead of the decision to scrap the contract with Glasgow city council, even though they will be made to take responsibility for more than 1,000 asylum seekers in the city? Will he agree to meet representatives of all those involved in the dispute, so that he can make an informed contribution to the Immigration Minister?

Reply from David Mundell: I will certainly be happy to meet the hon. Gentleman and other people who have an interest in this matter. I know that he has already had the opportunity to meet UKBA, and I think that he will share with me the positive view that although the people involved will no longer have a contract with Glasgow city council and will instead have one with another provider, many of them will stay in the same properties and that will minimise disruption.

Pete Wishart: Does the Minister even start to understand and appreciate the outrage that exists in Scotland about the treatment of asylum seekers? This is not just about the Glasgow situation, appalling though that is; it is also about the detention of children and

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the operation of the section 4 card. Will he get down to the UKBA to explain that we look at these issues very differently in Scotland and we expect the UKBA to act accordingly?

Reply from David Mundell: I do recognise that there are concerns in Scotland about how the matter in Glasgow was handled, and the Immigration Minister accepts that the correspondence with those affected could have been much better handled. I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will welcome, as I do, the inquiry that the Scottish Affairs Committee is conducting into relations in Scotland with UKBA.

Jo Swinson (East Dunbartonshire) (LD): I welcome the Minister's acceptance that the correspondence could have been handled better on the cancellation of the Glasgow contract, because as a result of letters sent out by UKBA, vulnerable people, including many families, were left in a state of extreme anxiety about where they would be living. Can he reassure us that lessons will be learned from this, so that such mistakes are not repeated in future?

Reply from David Mundell: Indeed, I can give the hon. Lady that assurance. As soon as these issues came to light, the Secretary of State for Scotland was in contact with the Immigration Minister. There is a recognition that the correspondence was inappropriate, and a number of measures have been taken. For example, everyone affected will have at least 14 days' notice if they have to move. Progress has been made. The initial letter was regrettable, but the situation will be better in future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101201/debtext/101201-0001.htm#10120145000022>

Topical Questions: Asylum

[28297] Fiona O'Donnell (East Lothian) (Lab): On Wednesday, responding to a question about correspondence sent by the UK Border Agency to asylum seekers in Glasgow who were tenants of the city council, the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, the right hon. Member for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale (David Mundell), reassured the House that lessons had been learned. On the same day, a 34-year-old single mother received a telephone call from the agency telling her that she would have to move not within the promised 14 days, but within 24 hours. What further steps is the Secretary of State taking to ensure that what is said in this place reflects what is happening in Glasgow?

Reply from Damian Green: I am afraid the hon. Lady is completely misinformed about the facts of this case. She need not take that from me; she can take it from her own colleague, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Scottish Affairs, the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson). He has been approached on this subject, as I have by many people. In response to an e-mail about it that he received, he wrote:

"It would...appear that the circular which prompted" the e-mail he received "was, at the least, not entirely accurate and thus mischievous. Mrs Namir Rad's move has nothing whatsoever to do with the" Glasgow city council and "UKBA contract termination, she was not given only 24 hours' notice and her move is within her existing community area." He goes on to say: "Scaremongering is not only unhelpful and misleading. It also undermines the credibility of any genuine appeals for help that are made."

I completely agree with the hon. Gentleman on this matter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101206/debtext/101206-0001.htm#1012067000025>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Deportation

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of deporting unsuccessful asylum seekers in (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009. [26602]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) seek to remove all those with no legal basis to be in the UK, this includes foreign national prisoners, illegal immigrants and failed asylum seekers.

It is not possible to provide a comprehensive figure for the actual cost of removals and deportations of failed asylum seekers because there is no specific budget dedicated solely to their removal. We are unable to disaggregate the specific costs and any attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost. However the cost of public expense removals (PERs) paid by the UK Border Agency has been as follows:

	<i>£ million</i>
2006-07	20.2
2007-08	22.3
2008-09	27.0
2009-10	27.5

These costs include the cost of tickets for both returnees and escorts, but not the actual escorting costs. PERs include individuals who are not failed asylum seekers, such as foreign national prisoners and illegal immigrants. Some failed asylum seekers are removed at carriers' expense so their costs are not included in the figures above.

In addition to the costs above the removal of a failed asylum seeker may involve costs related to caseworking and detention which will vary from case to case.

In addition to enforced removals UKBA also operate various voluntary removal schemes, where failed asylum seekers and illegal migrants are encouraged to return voluntarily to their country of origin. Expenditure on these schemes was as follows during the period in question:

	<i>£ million</i>
2006-07	12.4
2007-08	9.7
2008-09	10.0
2009-10	16.0

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#10112930000004>

Topical Questions: Child Detention

Annette Brooke: Will the Home Secretary update the House on progress towards the ending of child detention in relation to immigration? What improvements can she make to ensure that family applications are processed at an earlier stage?

Reply from Theresa May: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for giving me the opportunity to confirm, first, that the coalition Government retain their commitment to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes and, secondly, that we will make an announcement before the House rises for its Christmas recess. One of the issues that we will be considering is how we can work with families at a much earlier stage of the application process to help them to negotiate the system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101206/debtext/101206-0001.htm#1012067000025>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were in immigration detention during each of the months of May to October 2010 inclusive; how many of those children were detained (a) prior to a decision to grant or refuse entry to the United Kingdom, (b) after they or their family member had been refused leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom but still had unexhausted rights of appeal against a decision to refuse leave to enter or remain, (c) after they or their family member had been made subject to deportation proceedings, and (d) after any appeal rights they or their family member had held had been exhausted.[HL4608]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The number of children entering detention as part of a family unit held under immigration powers May to October 2010 inclusively is provided in the attached table.

No information is available which would distinguish between those families with children who were detained (a) prior to a decision to grant or refuse entry to the United Kingdom, (b) after they or their family member had been refused leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom but still had exhausted rights of appeal against a decision to refuse leave to enter or remain, (c) after they or their family member had been made subject to deportation proceedings, or (d) after any appeal rights they or their family member had held had been exhausted. The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Month (2010)	Number of Children Detained as part of a Family
May	40
June	25
July	15
August	5
September	15
October	15

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101203w0001.htm#10120331000314>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what amount of damages they have paid to migrants whom they have illegally detained during the current and previous two years.[HL3794]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): According to the Home Office resource accounts, £3 million was paid out in 2008-09 and £12 million in 2009-10 as "special payments". "Special payments" include compensation payments such as those paid out to individuals who have been awarded compensation either in court or in an out of court settlement following a claim for unlawful detention, as well as many other legal and compensation costs. Special payments are by their very nature unpredictable and irregular. Court cases and challenges may be ongoing for long periods of time and can result in peaks of cases being paid out many months or even years after the proceedings are launched.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101129w0001.htm#10112934000374>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) health, (b) recreational, (c) educational and (d) religious facilities are available for children in the Yarl's Wood detention centre. [27272]

Reply from Damian Green: Yarl's Wood, like all immigration removal centres, provides free onsite primary healthcare to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. This involves access to nursing care 24 hours per day, and visiting GPs who are on call outside of normal hours. All detainees, including children, are seen by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, and are provided with an appointment to see the GP within 24 hours. The nurse may make an earlier appointment if necessary.

The centre also provides dedicated services to meet the needs of families and children including a paediatric nurse, health and midwife visitors, weight and immunisation clinics which are able to prescribe malarial prophylaxis for identified risk groups, access to children's acute mental health services (CAMH) and counselling services.

The GP refers detainees to the local primary care trusts where secondary treatment is required.

Yarl's Wood provides a wide range of recreational facilities for children including a cinema, youth club overseen by a qualified youth worker, grassed and hard play areas with swings and climbing frames, an area for football and netball and a covered outdoor area with an all-weather pitch. The centre's crèche has a bouncy castle and a children's pet area with guinea pigs and rabbits.

Yarl's Wood has an Ofsted-registered crèche and school with four classrooms and play area delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged 5-16 years. The crèche is staffed seven days a week from 9-5 by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age. The centre's gym and sports hall are available for five hours PE Monday to Friday during school hours as part of the delivery of the national curriculum.

The centre provides for the varied range of faiths and celebrates various religious festivals/cultural events. Multi faith rooms are available daily as are holy books of different faiths. The centre's resident faith ministers are accessible to all, including children.

While the facilities at Yarl's Wood are of a high standard, the Government have committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes as part of their coalition agreement. In July, the Deputy Prime Minister, the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg) announced the closure of the family unit at Yarl's Wood. We will agree a timetable for closing the unit when we announce the new model for managing family cases which support the Government's immigration policies. However, in the meantime, we must continue to ensure families those applications have failed continue to leave the UK promptly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#10112930000027>

Detainees: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress has been made in ending the practice of child detention through (a) pilot schemes to find alternatives to child detention and (b) recent representations made to her on alternatives to child detention; [27269]

(2) when she expects the use of child detention centres to cease. [27271]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. A review is currently under way to

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the departure of families who have no right to be in the UK. We need to be sure that any new process works in practice so we are testing out a range of new approaches aimed at keeping families with children in the community. We have also been working closely with a range of interested parties in the voluntary and statutory sectors who have experience and expertise in this area.

In the meantime, detention is being used only as a last resort after families have exhausted their appeal rights, refused an offer of assisted return and failed to comply with arrangements put in place by the UK Border Agency for their departure. The number of families detained in immigration removal centres has reduced significantly during the course of the review, and it is no longer the case that families are detained for long periods of time.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average amount of time a child spent in an immigration removal centre in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [27270]

Reply from Damian Green: Rather than calculate the average statistic for time spent in detention, the Home Office presents the data as ranges because this is a more informative overview and is not subject to distortions by a small number of cases with large values.

The latest published statistics show that as at 30 September 2010 there were five children, detained solely under Immigration Act powers, in UK Border Agency removal centres and short-term holding facilities. All five had been detained for seven days or less. This figure is rounded to the nearest five and is of people recorded as being under 18 on 30 September 2010. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are available in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have been clear in their commitment to end the detention of children. We therefore continue to work with our corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining our immigration laws.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#1011293000011>

Immigration: Detention of Children

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made regarding the ending of the detention of children of failed asylum seekers.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): My Lords, there has been progress in the pilot studies that the Government have been conducting. We remain determined to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and intend to make a Statement on the subject before the Christmas Recess. As the House will be aware, the number of children in detention for immigration purposes has fallen dramatically-and is now very low-and takes place only for very short periods. There are no children in detention at present.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: Is the Minister aware that the Government kept their promise to end the detention of children in Dungavel in Scotland by shipping them hundreds of miles away to detention in Yarl's Wood? The *Observer* reported on Sunday that the replacement for Yarl's Wood is no better than Yarl's Wood.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

How will the Government end what Nick Clegg described as a moral outrage or will this be another pledge he wishes he had not made?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, the *Observer* is inaccurate. It is not the case that the accommodation that will be provided will be "no better than Yarl's Wood". The picture painted of the current Yarl's Wood was inaccurate. The Labour Benches opposite will know something about the changes that they made. The accommodation will not be like Yarl's Wood and will not contain any means of detention.

The Archbishop of Canterbury: My Lords, the Government will be aware of the Church's continuing acute interest in this subject not least because of an open letter to all party leaders that was sent before the general election touching this question. What are Her Majesty's Government's plans to keep monitoring the psychological and mental medical impact of detention upon children and families and, also, the impact of some aspects of the whole regime that currently obtains, including the practice of dawn raids, the proposed suggestion of indeterminate dates for expulsion and comparable matters? Will Her Majesty's Government be prepared to raise and press some of these issues with other European Union countries?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, the most reverend Primate raises a number of important points. The reason why we are concerned about the mental condition and psychological effect on children and their families of what has hitherto been the practice is the reason why this Government made a commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes. We will honour that commitment.

As a result of the number of questions that I have been asked on this subject, I have kept the House aware of the pilots that we are already conducting to alter procedures such that some of the things that have been mentioned will no longer take place. There will not be a need for the "raids" that used to take place. We are endeavouring to bring about a system that ensures that those who are not entitled to be in this country are not able to stay here and that they are not able to abuse the system, but that in its procedures is humane and just.

Baroness Afshar: My Lords, I declare an interest as someone who is involved in the Child M question and has raised the question of children in detention. It seems to me that the treatment of these children as numbers rather than as human beings, and the idea that they are a category that belongs or does not belong in this country, simply denies them their rights as human beings. Can we please take these cases as human beings and think what we would do if these were our children? I feel that Child M is being pulled every which way. The family is breaking up and the future of that child is being destroyed. We talk about future pilots. Here is an example. Please let us do something.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: I say to the noble Baroness that these pilots are in progress; they are not future pilots. We are endeavouring to introduce means by which we can encourage families to return on a voluntary basis. I lay stress on the fact that we keep families together as much as we possibly can. It is now a very rare circumstance, such as, possibly, the brutality of parents within a family, that would result in family separation. We try to keep families together. Our aim is to get them to depart voluntarily if they are not entitled to be in the country and, if they do not do so, to make as humane arrangements as we possibly can to remove them, but we do not intend to involve detention in that process.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, is the Minister aware that in seven months we as a Government have made more progress to end the detention of children for immigration purposes than the Labour Party did in 13 years? Can she arrange a visit to Yarl's Wood to enable the noble Lord, Lord Foulkes, the most reverend Primate the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Archbishop of Canterbury, the noble Baroness, myself and others to see the ending of that desperately sad regime?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, I have already offered the possibility of a visit to Yarl's Wood, which will, in due course, become a centre for adults only. However, I would be very happy to demonstrate to Members of this House the arrangements that we are piloting and hope to put in operation shortly. As I said, there will be a Statement on this issue before the Christmas Recess.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101201-0001.htm#10120139000744>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (a) families, and (b) unaccompanied children, have been detained for immigration purposes since 5 May 2010; and how many of each were in immigration detention on the latest date for which figures are available.[HL4365]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): There were 27 families and five age-disputed individuals, who were unassociated with a family, who entered detention, solely under Immigration Act powers, from the 6 May 2010 to the 30 June 2010 inclusive, the latest date for which published information is available.

Management information shows that there was one family with one child in detention solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 June 2010. There were an additional two individuals claiming to be children recorded as being under 18 as at 30 June 2010 in detention solely under Immigration Act powers; both individuals were recorded as having their age disputed.

Data for children entering detention under Immigration Act powers for July 2010 to September 2010 have been available from 25 November 2010 when data for the third quarter of 2010 are published.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the obstacles to ending the detention of children; and whether they will offer to transfer any families still in detention to accommodation provided under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.[HL4366]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. A review is currently under way to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children while ensuring the departure of families who have no right to be in the UK. We are testing out a range of new approaches aimed at keeping families with children in the community because we need to be sure that any new process works in practice.

The number of families being detained has reduced significantly during the course of the review, and it is no longer the case that families are detained for long periods of time. Currently detention is used only as a last resort after families' appeal rights are exhausted, assisted return has been offered and self-check-in has been attempted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101130w0001.htm#10113060000691>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average daily cost to the public purse of keeping a detainee in Yarl's Wood. [27803]

Reply from Damian Green: The current average cost of detaining an individual at an immigration removal centre is £110 per night. This includes the operating contract costs, but also the cost for detention services, the part of the UK Border Agency responsible for overseeing the detention estate, to provide direct services to detainees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101202/text/101202w0002.htm#10120257000011>

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre: Mental Health

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees in each detention centre on the latest date for which figures are available had been diagnosed with a mental health condition. [27804]

Reply from Damian Green: Consultations and medical records are confidential between patient and doctor. The only exception to this is where a medical practitioner believes a detainee's health is likely to be injuriously affected by continued detention. In such circumstances, he or she is required to inform the UK Border Agency. The Agency is not otherwise informed of, and is therefore unable to provide data on the number of detainees who are diagnosed with a mental health condition.

All immigration removal centres provide free onsite primary health care to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. This involves access to nursing care, including mental health, 24 hours per day, and visiting GPs who are on call outside of normal hours. The GP refers detainees to the local primary care trusts where secondary treatment or specialist health assessments are required.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101202/text/101202w0002.htm#10120257000012>

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) illegal migrants and (b) failed asylum seekers have been released following arrest owing to a lack of capacity on the immigration detention estate in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [27763]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not record this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many (a) illegal migrants and (b) failed asylum seekers on temporary release from detention were found after absconding in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [27764]

(2) how many (a) illegal migrants and (b) failed asylum seekers on temporary release from detention absconded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [27765]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not record this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records or through extensive report development.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101202/text/101202w0002.htm#10120257000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Illegal Immigrants

Douglas Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were removed from the UK in (a) July, (b) August and (c) September 2010. [27793]

Reply from Damian Green: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures for July to September 2010.

Removals and voluntary departures^(1, 2), from the United Kingdom, by type, July to September 2010

Number of departures⁽³⁾

	<i>Enforced removals and voluntary departures</i>					
	<i>Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures⁽⁴⁾</i>	<i>Assisted voluntary returns⁽⁵⁾</i>	<i>Other voluntary departures⁽⁶⁾</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed⁽⁷⁾</i>	<i>Grand total</i>
July	1,700	430	1,245	3,380	1,555	4,935
August	1,690	430	1,250	3,370	1,600	4,975
September	1,730	390	1,145	3,265	1,520	4,785
July-September	5,125	1,250	3,640	10,015	4,675	14,690

⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

⁽²⁾ Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

⁽³⁾ Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

⁽⁵⁾ Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

⁽⁶⁾ Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

⁽⁷⁾ Includes removals performed by immigration officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

A copy of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom July-September 2010 will be placed in the House Library.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of people living illegally in the UK. [29325]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not capture data relating to the number of people living illegally in the UK, because it is not possible to quantify this number accurately.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101208/text/101208w0002.htm#10120878000022>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Chi Onwurah (Newcastle upon Tyne Central) (Lab): If he will review the effectiveness of prosecution policy in human trafficking cases. [27082]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: All areas of prosecution policy are kept constantly under review. That said, the Crown Prosecution Service has comprehensive guidance for prosecutors to ensure that decisions in human trafficking cases are taken in line with the principles in the code for Crown prosecutors, taking account of the particular factors that are relevant in human trafficking cases.

Chi Onwurah: In the short time that I have been a Member of Parliament, I have already been approached by a number of women-girls, really-in my constituency who have been trafficked. Not one of them had seen a successful prosecution for their abusers in this country. Will the Attorney-General explain why his Government do not sign the EU directive so that we can do all that we can to ensure that those responsible for this trade are brought to justice?

Reply from the Solicitor-General: I will be corrected if I am wrong, but I rather think that we have signed that directive. The Government take issues relating to human trafficking extremely seriously. Indeed, I appeared in the Court of Appeal only the other day on an application to refer a sentence on the grounds of undue leniency and I await the reserved judgment.

Gemma Doyle (West Dunbartonshire) (Lab/Co-op): Earlier this year, the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance in Glasgow highlighted evidence that showed an increase in human trafficking during large sporting events. Is the Solicitor-General concerned that the Olympic games in London and the Commonwealth games in Glasgow will increase the threat of human trafficking in the UK? If so, does he agree that signing up to the proposed EU directive is important in the run-up to those events?

Reply from the Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Chi Onwurah). As a matter of general principle, any large event, sporting or otherwise, in this country-the hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle) will appreciate that Scotland is a separate jurisdiction in such matters-that may lead to human trafficking or an increase in human trafficking commands our attention. We will bear down on it as best we can. It is often difficult for the victims of trafficking to have the courage or ability to give evidence, but it is essential that we encourage them to do so and provide them with the utmost protection when they attempt to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101130/debtext/101130-0001.htm#10113037000043>

Human Trafficking

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of current initiatives to reduce the incidence of human trafficking. [26824]

Reply from Damian Green: The effectiveness of the UK's approach to combat human trafficking forms part of the current discussions within the Home Office in order to publish a new strategy by spring 2011 on tackling this crime.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training police forces receive to equip them to investigate cases of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [26826]

Reply from Damian Green: The sustainable and effective approach to combating human trafficking is through ensuring that it is part of core police business for every police force in the country.

In support of this work the UK Human Trafficking Centre in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency has in place a programme of work to:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

embed basic training in human trafficking into mainstream training for student officers and police community support officers;
evaluate and mainstream the Senior Investigating Officers courses;
review and embed human trafficking training into the initial detective training courses; and
include human trafficking in domestic violence, public protection and roads policing programmes.

In addition to this, the UK Human Trafficking Centre provides tactical advice to all forces through its helpline.

Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to initiate a further Pentameter human trafficking investigation. [26827]

Reply from Damian Green: This is an operational matter for the police and Serious Organised Crime Agency, and will be determined by operational priorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101130/text/101130w0006.htm#10113071000066>

Press Releases

Government says UKBA letter was 'inappropriate'

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/847_government_says_ukba_letter_was_inappropriate

Government sets out proposals for major reform of the student visa system

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/student-reform>

Refugee Action's 'Free to be me' campaign: UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/29-refugee-action-response>

Stepping up the fight against people trafficking

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/015-102169-333-11-49-902-20101129STO01989-2010-29-11-2010/default_en.htm

Immigration: a single work and residence permit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20100927IPR83719/>

Human trafficking: "Let's not be powerless witnesses but fight against it"

http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=6143&L=2

New Publications

Overseas students in the immigration system: Types of institution and levels of study

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/occ90.pdf>

Positive Images

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Teaching-packages/Positive-Images/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/What%20we%20do/Teaching%20resources/Teaching%20packages/Positive%20images/2010Positive%20Images%20Toolkit.ashx>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

UK Data Sources on International Migration and the Migrant Population: A Review and Appraisal

http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/pdfs/Alessio_Cangiano/Cangiano%20-%20UK%20migration%20statistics%202010.pdf

Separated, asylum-seeking children in European Union Member States

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-fullreport-sep-asylum-conference-2010_EN.pdf

Opening Europe's doors to unskilled and low-skilled workers: A practical handbook

http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/pdf/publications_pdf/special_editions/practical_handbook.pdf

World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change

http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/WMR_2010_ENGLISH.pdf

News

Warning for governments as global migration is forecast to top 400m

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Warning-for-governments-as-global.6642812.jp>

MPs to probe Scots asylum row

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/MPs-to-probe-Scots-asylum.6644064.jp>

MPs probe city deal over asylum seekers

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/mps-probe-city-deal-over-asylum-seekers-1.1071643>

Immigration policy must reflect Scottish needs, minister told

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Immigration-policy-must-reflect-Scottish.6650946.jp>

Letter of warning to Damian Green

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Letter-of-warning-to-Damian.6650945.jp>

Science labs welcome easing of visa squeeze on top academics

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article2832165.ece>

The Conservatives' immigration cap is a control that seems to suit nobody

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/28/theresa-may-immigration-cap>

Nick Clegg to announce timetable for ending child detentions

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/dec/01/nick-clegg-announce-timetable-ending-child-detentions>

Immigration adviser charges £350 to write a letter

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8181413/Immigration-adviser-charges-350-to-write-a-letter.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Student work search visa to be scrapped under plans

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11937291>

Government confirms plans to curb international student numbers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/07/government-curb-international-student-numbers>

Cross-party MPs voice 'profound concern' to Theresa May over plans to bar foreign students

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/07/immigration-education>

Foreign students forced to go home after studies under tough new immigration rules

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8185579/Foreign-students-forced-to-go-home-after-studies-under-tough-new-immigration-rules.html>

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Race Relations

New publications

A' Adam's Bairns?

<http://www.scotdec.org.uk/resource/15>

'A strong, fair and inclusive national identity': A viewpoint on the Scottish Government's Outcome 13

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/national_identity_viewpoint_research_report_62.pdf

Beyond Extremism and Ideology: The Unanticipated Constructive Roles played by North African Islamists and Jihadis in Contemporary British Society

http://cgs.gmu.edu/publications/gmtpwp/gmtp_wp_16.pdf

"Forgotten" ethnic minority groups and communities in EU policies and debates

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/ENARqy_11_2010_EN_final.pdf

News

Town unites against the Government's sectarian 'slur' sent to Scottish schools

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/town-unites-against-the-government-s-sectarian-slur-sent-to-scottish-schools-1.1072505>

The civil war among Muslims in Britain

<http://blogs.independent.co.uk/2010/12/01/the-civil-war-among-muslims-in-britain/>

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what progress has been made on the reform of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and if she will make a statement. [27242]

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We intend to reform the Equality and Human Rights Commission to focus it on its core regulatory and human rights functions, and provide better value for taxpayers' money. Our plans for doing this include legislative proposals which we are preparing in the context of the Public Bodies Bill, currently in the other House. We intend to consult on our proposals early next year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0001.htm#1011299000010>

Stop and Search: Ethnic Groups

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of (a) Black and (b) Asian people stopped and searched under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [25270]

Reply from Nick Herbert: The Government share the concerns about disproportionality in the use of stop and search powers. We are working with the police service to help ensure that stop and search powers are used appropriately. There is, however, no single cause of disproportionality. It is important, therefore, to look at levels of disproportionality, and any specific demographic or other factors, in individual forces.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) have developed 'Next Steps', a diagnostic tool to ensure that a force's use of Stop and Search is not driven by unjustified factors such as discrimination or stereotyping. 'Next Steps' is currently focused on Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). The NPIA will support forces to implement 'Next Steps' and will target forces with high levels of disproportionality. The NPIA has recently commenced the roll out of 'Next Steps' in Dorset, Merseyside, and one borough of the Metropolitan police service.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of (a) Black and (b) Asian people stopped and searched under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; [25271] (2) what research her Department has undertaken to identify the causes of the disproportionate number of Black and Asian people stopped and searched under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. [25272]

Reply from Nick Herbert: My Department has not undertaken any research on the causes of disproportionality in the use of section 60 stop and search powers. Amendments to Code of Practice A, made under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984, which were laid before the House on 17 November 2010, provide further guidance to front-line police officers on the use of section 60 stop and search powers. That guidance makes clear that, in using section 60 powers: "officers must take care not to discriminate unlawfully against anyone on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010" and gives further guidance on those characteristics, which include ethnicity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#10112930000024>

Equality (continued) Press Releases

Featherstone: new tools will help make the workplace fairer

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/featherstone_new_tools_will_h.aspx

Hearing discusses plight of Europe's marginalised Roma

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/015-102268-333-11-49-902-20101129STO02032-2010-29-11-2010/default_en.htm

New publications

UK Government Equality Strategy: Building a Fairer Britain

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/GEO%20Equality%20Strategy%20tagged%20version.pdf>

Human rights and equality in the voluntary sector

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/humanrights/edf_bihir_report.pdf

Not just another statistic

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Wales/not_just_another_statistic_email.pdf

Trade union practices on anti-discrimination and diversity (summary)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=6164&langId=en>

News

Black ballet: Pointe break

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/2010/dec/04/black-ballet-cassa-pancho>

Pagan prisoners to get four days free of work a year

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/849602-pagan-prisoners-to-get-four-days-free-of-work-a-year>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sectarianism

Ian McKee (Lothians) (SNP): To ask the First Minister whether the Scottish Government has further plans for tackling sectarianism. (S3F-2761)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): The Scottish Government is committed to tackling sectarianism—and all forms of religious intolerance—wherever and whenever it arises. Sectarianism is never acceptable.

In Scotland this year we have seen some examples of good progress. The country united in welcoming His Holiness the Pope to Scotland, and the all-faith commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the reformation took place.

Those two events, and the reception of an overwhelming vast majority of the people of Scotland to them, indicated that Scotland is perhaps beginning to win the battle against sectarianism, which people of good will are uniting to win.

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ian McKee: I thank the First Minister for his reply, which is particularly appropriate in Scottish inter faith week. Does he agree that the key to eradicating religious sectarianism is to influence the young? Does he agree that while it seems not to be possible to have Scotland's children share a common educational experience, all efforts should be made to encourage faith and non-denominational schools to engage in a wide range of joint activities? That will allow children of all faiths and none to work and play together, thus forming friendships across the religious divide that are based on familiarity and mutual respect.

Reply from the First Minister: Yes, I do agree with that, and that is happening across many of our schools, as indeed are anti-sectarian programmes on the ground. This week, for example, Fergus Ewing attended the launch of Nil by Mouth's project to address sectarianism in the workplace in Scotland, and a range of other initiatives are being supported by the Government, not just in education but across a range of areas of society. Those efforts are laudable. I agree with Ian McKee in the support that he expresses for them, and they will most certainly continue despite the financial pressures that are facing the Administration.

Ted Brocklebank (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con): Does the First Minister agree that it does little to douse the flames of sectarianism in football when chairmen of prominent Scottish clubs go on television to demand the sacking of individual referees?

Reply from the First Minister: I will shimmy or sidestep around the request to interfere in the internal affairs of the Scottish Football Association, except to say this: the Scottish Football Association, like every responsible organisation in Scotland, has rules and regulations covering such matters. Incidentally, I believe that, following due process, it has come to the right decision.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1202-02.htm#Col31185>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-7529 Jackson Carlaw: Sentencing of Mohammed Sandia—That the Parliament condemns the comments of Mohammed Sandia who posted a series of what it considers disgraceful anti-Semitic remarks on The Scotsman newspaper's website; welcomes what it considers Sheriff Gordon Liddell's unequivocal condemnation of Sandia's comments when he appeared for sentencing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 10 November 2010; considers that Mr Sandia's prosecution sends out a welcome message to society at large about how indefensible anti-Semitism is and how vile its consequences can be; congratulates the determination of the police and Crown Office to pursue this case to its conclusion, and urges editors of all media, and online media outlets in particular, to be on their guard to prevent similar instances of religious or racial hatred from finding their way onto their pages in the future.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20354>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Crime: Hate

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what objectives her Department has set for its policy on hate groups operating in the UK. [24582]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Coalition programme for government outlines our objectives to deny public funds to any group that has recently espoused or incited violence or hatred; and to improve the recording of hate crime offences.

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

The Home Secretary also has the power to exclude (i.e. ban) an individual from coming to the United Kingdom where she considers that the individual's presence here would not be conducive to the public good. This may include those who display unacceptable behaviour by inciting hatred.

We are currently consulting the police on how hate crime information can best be collected. This commitment has been included in the Home Office's Business Plan. It is intended that the police will begin the collection of this data from April 2011. As with a whole raft of Government and police data, we will make information available in a transparent and accessible format.

The coalition agreement also includes the aim to restore rights to non-violent protest. We will review the law to ensure that the police continue to have the powers they need to protect local communities from intimidation and threatening behaviour and to deal with individuals and groups that espouse or incite violence.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is leading further work across Government to tackle non-violent extremism as part of our aim of promoting wider community integration.

We have announced a review of the Prevent strategy, aimed at tackling violent extremism and terrorism, with the objective of ensuring that it is more effective and properly focused. The review will consider whether the Prevent strategy should be expanded to include other forms of violent extremism. A revised strategy is due to be published in the new year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101129/text/101129w0002.htm#10112930000007>

Press Releases

Total of recorded hate crime from regional forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the calendar year 2009

http://www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/084a_Recorded_Hate_Crime_-_January_to_December_2009.pdf

Human Rights Day: Protecting human rights defenders and victims of discrimination are two sides of the same coin

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/10_12_10%20human%20rights%20day-final.pdf

Publications

Video case studies: Stop Hate in Central Scotland

<http://www.stophateincentralscotland.org.uk/page9.htm>

Islamophobia and Anti-Muslim Hate Crime: UK Case Studies 2010

http://www.muslimsafetyforum.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Web_EMRC_2010revised_SecureUSE-THIS.pdf.pdf

News

Hate crime figures published for the first time

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11875321>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Drop in racist incidents reported across England and Wales

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/nov/30/racist-crime-england-wales>

Hugh Dallas e-mail 'an example of vicious anti-Catholic hostility in Scotland'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Hugh-Dallas-email-39an-example.6642879.jp>

Catholics' verdict: Scots Catholics give their opinion

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Catholics39-verdict-Scots-Catholics-give.6644060.jp>

Scottish religious leaders condemn wealthy countries' global warming failure

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Scottish-religious-leaders-condemn-wealthy.6644020.jp>

Don't turn local problem of bigotry into country crisis

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/leaders/Leader-Don39t-turn-local-problem.6643979.jp>

Reaction divided over claims by Church of anti-Catholic hostility

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/home-news/reaction-divided-over-claims-by-church-of-anti-catholic-hostility-1.1071567>

Kirk minister got hate mail over ref stance

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/2033510>

Bosses fight sectarianism

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/bosses-fight-sectarianism-1.1071837>

Working to beat Scotland's 'last taboo'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Working-to-beat-Scotland39s-39last.6645562.jp>

New bid to tackle religious prejudice in the classroom

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/education/new-bid-to-tackle-religious-prejudice-in-the-classroom-1.1071810>

More still requires to be done to tackle the scourge of bigotry

<http://www.heraldsotland.com/comment/herald-view/more-still-requires-to-be-done-to-tackle-the-scourge-of-bigotry-1.1071753>

Racist blog leaves childcare manager's career in ruins

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Racist-blog-leaves-childcare-manager39s.6648400.jp>

Man faces charges over KKK snowman

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Man-faces-charges-over-KKK.6648438.jp>

Frosty the hateful snowman: Outrage over white separatist's noose-holding KKK sculpture

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1335270/Mark-Eliseusons-sculpture-White-separatists-noose-holding-KKK-snowman-spreads-holiday-hate.html>

Teenagers arrested after Stoke mosque set on fire

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/04/teenagers-arrested-stoke-mosque-fire>

Racist onslaught puts paid to Poles' Capital bar dream

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Racist-onslaught-puts-paid-to.6651409.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

To see how fascism can be throttled, look at Barking

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/28/barking-politics-fears-housing-unemployment>

Theresa May pressed to halt visit by anti-Muslim US preacher

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/dec/11/theresa-may-edl-terry-jones>

Pizza Hut sparks race row after asking black footballers to pay before eating

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/06/pizza-hut-bournemouth-footballers>

Twenty-one Oxbridge colleges took no black students last year

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/dec/06/oxford-colleges-no-black-students>

These figures do not show that Oxford and Cambridge discriminate

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/dec/09/oxford-cambridge-do-not-discriminate>

Should Oxbridge discriminate to boost the numbers of black students?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/dec/12/oxbridge-university-race-discrimination>

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Other Holyrood

Petitions

Gypsy Traveller Sites (PE1321)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-10/pu10-1802.htm#Col3138>

Gypsy Travellers (Council Tax) (PE1333)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-10/pu10-1802.htm#Col3143>

Shia Muslims (Community Centres) (PE1323)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-10/pu10-1802.htm#Col3140>

Press Releases

Scotland Bill published at Westminster

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/30124218>

More ethnic minority organ donors needed

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/12/10171117>

News

Margo MacDonald's End of Life Assistance Bill rejected

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11876821>

Holyrood to get new budget powers under Scotland Bill

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11863388>

Other Holyrood News (continued)

Move to probe new Holyrood powers under Scotland Bill
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-11887790>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Human Rights

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101202-0001.htm#10120240000731>

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101207/halltext/101207h0001.htm#10120726000001>

Ministerial Statement

Scotland Bill (Publication)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101130/wmstext/101130m0001.htm#10113032000020>

Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (1132) BBC Asian Network - That this House notes with great concern the BBC's plan to close the digital radio station BBC Asian Network; recognises the need for a national radio station catering for the Asian population in the UK; fully supports the station's unique position at the heart of the Asian community, providing a platform for British Asian content and culture since it began in the Midlands in 1988; and urges the Government to encourage the role of the BBC Asian Network as a stage for British Asian culture to continue to develop and grow.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42140&SESSION=905>

Press Release

Moore publishes Bill to strengthen Scotland's future

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/14694.html>

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New Publications

UK Giving 2010: An overview of charitable giving in the UK, 2009/10

http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/101201_UKGivingReport_FINAL.pdf

Charterpedia

Online information about the European charter of Fundamental Rights

http://infoportal.fra.europa.eu/InfoPortal/infobaseFrontEndCountryHome.do?btnCountryLinkHome_1

New Publications (continued)

Faith Schools We Can Believe In

http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/images/publications/pdfs/Faith_Schools_We_Can_Believe_In_-_Nov_10.pdf

Doing God in Education

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/10_12_10%20human%20rights%20day-final.pdf

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Other News

Donor plea to black and minority ethnic communities

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/donor-plea-to-black-and-minority-ethnic-communities-1.1073884>

Regulator to train charity advisers

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=903e9fd1-13c3-4707-b38b-76d533f89fc7>

2010: everyone "deserves" Human rights, especially in a recession.

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/10December2010news>

Awards celebrate the achievements of Britain's Sikhs

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article2832129.ece>

Social Justice Minister meets Muslim award winners

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/housingandcommunity/2010/101210cohesion/;jsessionid=xMldNCINhbmQNnLrxVvb8rpvwM8zJDSyzsy9G0QD5j8kJshThH0N!-1787364033?lang=en>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

** Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-10/he10-3402.htm#Col3710>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-10/he10-3502.htm#Col3744>

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-10/sur10-66.htm>

** End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Stage 1 debate (Result of vote: For the Bill 16, Against 85, Abstentions 2)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1201-02.htm#Col31042>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/index.htm>

Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/subleg/reports-10/sur10-67.htm>

Local Electoral Administration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/index.htm>

**** Palliative Care Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/index.htm>

Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/reports-10/her10-10-vol1.htm>

The Palliative Care Bill has been withdrawn.

Public Records Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

**** Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

Second Reading scheduled for 2 December 2011

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101203/debtext/101203-0003.htm#10120330000007>

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0640112m.1233-1239.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/pbc0640112a.1241-1242.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/119/amend/pbc1190912a.1253.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101201/debtext/101201-0001.htm#10120145000002>

**** House of Lords Reform Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/houseoflordsreformhl.html>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101203-0001.htm#10120327000539>

Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/humantraffickingbordercontrol.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/parliamentaryvotingsystemandconstituencies.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-ir.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/su026ia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-ii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-iii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/su026-iiia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/su026-iiib.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-iv.htm>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101130-0001.htm#10113039000890>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101206-0001.htm#1012066000788>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101208-0001.htm#10120863000336>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101208-0002.htm#10120886000196>

** Scotland Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/scotland.html>

Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/11115.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/en/2011115en.pdf>

Scottish Parliament: Legislative Consent Memorandum from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/legConMem/LCM-2009-2010/ScotlandBillLCM.pdf>

Scottish Parliament: Legislative Consent Memorandum from the leader of the Labour Party, supported by the leaders of the Scottish Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/legConMem/LCM-2010-2011/2ndScotlandBill-lcm.pdf>

Scottish Parliament debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1209-02.htm#Col31355>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Prevent Review (17 December 2010)
<http://preventreview.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education (31 December 2010)
http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen

UK Extradition Arrangements (31 December 2010)
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/views-extradition>

**** Sikh Articles of Faith** (10 January 2011)
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/projects-and-campaigns-in-scotland/sikh-articles-of-faith/>

Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy
(14 January 2011)
http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx

Introducing fee charges for appeals in the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (21 January 2011)
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/fee-charges-appeals-consultation-211010.htm>

**** Student Immigration System** (31 January 2011)
Full consultation paper:
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/students/>
Online survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BDPMGMTM>

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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

**** applications for the January course close this week!**

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The programme will run as two pilot schemes starting 12 January and April 2011. BEMIS in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scottish Poverty Information Unit) and Faith in Community Scotland are offering a 12 week Certificate Level training programme to empower local community and faith groups with much needed necessary skills in relation to research and tackling poverty. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.pdf and registration form http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.doc or contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

17 December 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore immigration terminology, main refugee nationalities, why people flee and factors affecting migration, the Refugee Convention - its history and interpretation, the UK asylum process and current implementation in Scotland, how to develop culturally sensitive services, and issues facing practitioners and possible solutions; best practice for support and advocacy. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/553_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

14 January 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00)

Keynote speaker Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty. The year 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, and the theme of the AGM will be to recognise the importance of this international agreement which has saved thousands if not hundreds of thousands of lives over the years. For information contact Graeme Corbett Graeme.Corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7930

Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?

19 January 2011 in Edinburgh

17 February 2011 in Inverness

Equality and Human Rights Commission conferences to provide information about how the Act works and how to use it, what discrimination means and who is protected. For information contact David Reilly David.Reilly@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_ehrc.pdf

**** OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns**

19 January 2011 in Perth (10.00 – 12.30)

22 February 2010 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

10 May 2010 in Aberdeen (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist charities to complete annual and supplementary monitoring returns. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=41d2239c-6e59-4edb-96ea-cfd052854b50> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

20 January 2011 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

**** Violence against Women in Muslim Communities**

24 – 26 January 2011 in Glasgow (10.00 – 6.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training to enhance the skills and knowledge of existing trainers and those who work on women's issues. For information contact tabassum@mwrc.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11i_mwrc.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity**

26 January 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 4.30)

19 April 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist organisations in deciding whether to register as a charity, and, if so, to do so. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=6bb95a2f-165b-4bbc-8f78-25fd07c79e34> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

UKBA asylum support - the essentials

3 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people supporting those going through the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325_ukba_formerly_nass_asylum_support_-_the_essentials

Violence Against Women Faith, Culture and Practice Training

23 February 2011 in Stirling(10.00 – 4.00)

Amina training to explore the faith and cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women in the Muslim and other Communities. For information contact pdu@stirling.gov.uk / 01786 442 562.

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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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>*



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