

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 23 December to 10 January, and the UK Parliament from 21 December to 10 January. The next issue of MEMO will be on 10 January 2011.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

United Kingdom Border Agency

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor1216-02.htm#Col31710>

Holyrood Equal Opportunities Committee

Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking: Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-10/eor10-05-00.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Immigration (Detention of Children)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): The UK has a long tradition of welcoming people from across the globe and we can be especially proud of our record in granting refuge to those who have been persecuted. When those people include families with children, we have a particular responsibility to ensure that we approach the task with compassion and humanity.

That is why one of this Government's first acts was to commit to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. This Government believe that children should not be detained in our immigration system, but we must ensure that those with no right to be here leave the UK. This is a difficult issue-we need to balance the welfare of children and families with the need to maintain a robust and workable immigration system.

In June I set up a review of how we work with families in the immigration system. The Home Office launched a consultation which received over 340 responses from different organisations and members of the public. We also sought the views of interested parties through a working group co-chaired with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, received recommendations from a further expert group convened by Citizens UK and examined how other countries manage family removals. We have also worked closely with the Department for Education as the lead Department for children and safeguarding in England and will continue to do so on implementation.

We have already begun to take action where we can. Since the beginning of June, fewer than 50 families have been held in immigration detention-compared to over 300 over the same period last year-and the average stay in detention has been reduced from 15 days to 4 days.

But we need to go further. With immediate effect no children will be detained at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

We are now implementing a fundamentally new approach to the whole end-to-end process of working with families in the immigration system. This new system will strengthen families' trust and confidence in the immigration system, maintain public confidence in the Government's ability to control the UK's borders and ensure that families with children are treated humanely and in a way that meets our international obligations and our statutory duties in relation to children's safety and welfare.

Working in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, we will continue to improve the quality of our asylum decision making through our asylum improvement project. We will develop best practice for working with families and will increase the specialist skills of our staff. Working with partners from local authorities, the voluntary sector and local communities, we will continue to test new arrangements for providing early access to legal advice and practical support and guidance to families.

In those cases where an application has been refused and all appeals have been exhausted, we will assist families in departing voluntarily, including with financial assistance where necessary. UK Border Agency staff will hold a dedicated family return conference with each family to help them understand the options available for their return and prepare for it.

We will, of course, still require families to depart who have no right to stay here and who do not depart voluntarily. But rather than being detained, they will instead be given a minimum of two-weeks' notice of their departure date while they remain in the community. This extended notification period-up from 72 hours at present-will ensure that the family can prepare properly for their return. Families will then be given the opportunity to check themselves in at the port of departure.

At this point families will have had every opportunity to comply and exercise some control over the timing and manner of their departure. They will have had the opportunity to challenge the decision that they must return in court, supported by legal aid and

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

voluntary sector partners; they will have had the opportunity to discuss their options at family return conferences; and they will have had the possibility to leave voluntarily, with a financially supported return.

Where families still fail to co-operate, their case will be referred to a new independent family returns panel, which will ensure that the welfare of the children involved is fully considered in a tailored returns plan. The panel will be independently chaired and include experts on health and child safeguarding. Once the new process is implemented, the panel will be able to recommend using any existing mechanism or policy available to the department to manage returns, but specifically excluding detention in an immigration removal centre.

As a very last resort for those rare cases when families fail to co-operate with all other options, the panel will have the option to refer the family to a new type of accommodation for only the last 72 hours before departure.

This accommodation will not be an immigration removal centre. It will have a family-friendly environment, with an entirely different look and feel. The site will be secure but will respect family privacy and independence. We will be seeking third sector involvement in the running of the accommodation. This accommodation, which will only be used for very short periods of time, will be for those families who have consistently refused to comply with the process and whom the independent panel advise need that level of oversight. Once there, families will be allowed to leave the premises with permission on a risk-assessed basis. We will allow children to have the opportunity to leave the premises subject to a clear and transparent risk and safeguarding assessment and suitable supervision arrangements. We will also ensure that there are suitable adults on site in Tinsley House from January to allow children to have the opportunity to leave the centre following a risk and safeguarding assessment by UK Border Agency. The panel will encourage accountability and transparency in the process by producing an annual report, which will include all cases referred to the new accommodation.

In addition to ensuring the removal of families with no right to stay here, we must maintain our ability to protect the border. Other countries have kept the ability to detain those arriving at the border for a short period and we will need this capability as well. We will retain Tinsley House at Gatwick for this purpose when necessary. Families detained trying to enter Britain illegally are usually returned on the next available flight and within 24 hours.

The process I have outlined balances the welfare of children and families with the need to maintain a robust immigration system which can remove people with no right to remain here. As we put the new process into practice we will continue to learn and improve. We will work with communities, the voluntary sector, local authorities, the Department for Education, and families themselves to make the new process work. At the heart of our new approach will be the fundamental need to safeguard the welfare of children.

Further information on the review can be found on the UK Border Agency website and a copy will be placed in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101216/wmstext/101216m0001.htm#10121649000034>

English Language Students (Entry Clearance)

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Under tier 4 of the points-based system, institutions are currently required to ensure their students have a prior knowledge of English at a minimum of B1 level on the common European framework of reference for languages. Competence in English language is a key indicator of a student's ability and motivation to follow a course of study. In the consultation on the reform of the student immigration system, the Government therefore propose that

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

minimum level for tier 4 is raised further to B2-an upper-intermediate level of competence.

I recognise these current arrangements, as well as those proposed, do not meet the special needs of the English language sector. These lower-level courses can be offered through the student visitor route. Leave under this route is limited to six months. The English language sector has represented to me that in some cases, they wish to offer courses of longer duration. Therefore I have agreed to put in place a temporary measure that will allow English language students on a longer-duration course to be given leave to enter as student visitors for a period not exceeding 11 months.

To enter under this route for the extended period, English language students will need to obtain entry clearance at a British mission overseas in advance of travel, whether they are a visa national or non-visa national, and furnish evidence of the duration of the course. Other requirements, entitlements and restrictions will remain the same as the current student visitor visa. Students will not be entitled to work, sponsor dependants or switch into other routes including tier 4 of the points-based system. Students will have to satisfy the entry clearance officer that they genuinely intend to study, to leave the UK at the end of their studies and can support themselves during their stay. Full details of the route and how students can qualify will be published in guidance on the UK Border Agency website. Students will be able to apply from 10 January 2011.

This concession is intended to create flexibility to allow legitimate English language colleges to continue to offer opportunities to genuine students. I shall monitor closely the practical impact to ensure that it does not become a loophole, and take a decision on making it permanent in due course. English language students will continue to be able to study under tier 4 of the points-based system, as now, where they meet the requirements.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101213/wmstext/101213m0001.htm#1012132000023>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Welsh Refugee Council: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what funding she plans to provide for the Welsh Refugee Council in (a) 2010-11 and (b) 2011-12; [31040] (2) what funding her Department provided for the Welsh Refugee Council in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [31041]

Reply from Damian Green: Funding has been made available to the Welsh Refugee Council for the provision of support for asylum seekers in the form of 'One Stop Service' and initial accommodation wrap-around services. The following table details the funds made available for these services for the past three years and the maximum funding level for these services for 2011-12.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Funding levels (£)</i>
2008-09	1,271,948
2009-10	1,291,425
2010-11	1,233,883
2011-12	515,248

The maximum funding level for 2011-12 does not include funding for the provision of the Refugee Integration Employment Services in Wales or for strategic funding that will be made available to the Welsh Refugee Council.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101216/text/101216w001.htm#10121651000046>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

UK Border Agency: Training

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training on the restraint of children UK Border Agency enforcement staff receive. [30824]

Reply from Damian Green: The use of control and restraint against children is used as last resort and only by specially trained officers. Arrest trained officers can only use the minimum amount of force necessary to carry out their duties, and the control and restraint of children must be limited to circumstances where it is necessary for an officer to use physical intervention to prevent harm to the child or any individual present.

UK Border Agency arrest team immigration officers are trained in the use of control and restraint by accredited police trainers to standards that are laid down by the police. This training is reviewed regularly and all arrest trained officers are required to attend refresher training every 12 months, which they must pass in order to retain their accreditation.

The use of control and restraint is carefully monitored and scrutinised internally to ensure that it is justified. Our operational activities are also subject to inspection by John Vine, the Independent Chief Inspector.

Further information on UK Border Agency procedures in family cases, including the use of force against children, can be found in chapter 45 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance manual which is available to view at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oe_msectione/

As part of the review 'ending child detention for immigration purposes' the UK Border Agency is engaging closely with child welfare organisations to review training provided to staff who manage families.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101216/text/101216w0001.htm#10121651000045>

Immigration

Steve McCabe: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of immigrants to the UK in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, (e) 2014 and (f) 2015. [29874]

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

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated December 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of immigrants to the UK in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, (e) 2014 and (f) 2015. (29874)

The most recent population projections of the UK are based on the mid-year population estimates for 2008. Assumptions of future migration are made to produce population projections. The assumed net migration, given in the table below, is used in the production of the projections. The assumptions for in-migration and out-migration are by-products of this process and do not feed directly into producing projections. Long-term international migration data produced by the ONS applies the UN definition of someone who moves from their country of previous residence for a period of at least a year, irrespective of citizenship.

Note the data presented are mid-year to mid-year and are not available by calendar year.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2008-based National Population Projections-assumed annual migration, UK						
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 ⁽¹⁾
In-migration	670,800	670,800	670,800	670,800	670,800	670,000
Out-migration	465,000	470,000	475,000	480,000	485,000	490,000
Net migration	205,800	200,800	195,800	190,800	185,800	180,000

⁽¹⁾ The projections assume constant levels of annual net migration beyond 2014-15.
Source: Office for National Statistics

National population projections are available from the Office for National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8519>

The national population projections are not forecasts and do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors (whether in the UK or overseas) might have on demographic behaviour. They simply provide the population levels and age structure that would result if the underlying assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration were to be realised.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101216/text/101216w0002.htm#10121651000108>

Visas: Applications

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of visa applications were (a) rejected on initial application and (b) allowed in each category of appeal following initial rejection in the latest period for which figures are available. [29654]

Reply from Damian Green: In calendar year 2009, 18% of initial applications were rejected.

In the same calendar year 33% of all appeals received were allowed. In the family visit category 36% of appeals were allowed. In the settlement category 37% of appeals were allowed. For other entry clearance appeals 25% were allowed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101213/text/101213w0004.htm#1012141000070>

Detention Centres: Christmas

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements have been made for residential and operational staffing of immigration removal centres over Christmas 2010 and the new year period. [30144]

Reply from Damian Green: Immigration removal centres operate throughout the year, including Christmas 2010 and the new year period. Staffing will be maintained at the standard level for each centre to provide continuity of service and to ensure a safe environment for all persons detained.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether Ministers in her Department have signed any authorisations for the continued detention of children at immigration removal centres beyond 28 days which provide for the detention of children during Christmas 2010; [30145]

(2) whether the UK Border Agency has made arrangements in respect of children detained at immigration removal centres during Christmas 2010; [30146]

(3) how many families she expects to be detained at immigration removal centres during Christmas 2010. [30147]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: Current Ministers have not authorised any detentions of children in immigration removal centres beyond 28 days. The Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes and a review is currently under way to consider how this can be done in a way which protects the welfare of children and ensures that families with no right to be in the UK leave. The Government will make an announcement before the House rises for Christmas on our plans for doing this.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121448000072>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government, for the most recent date available, how many immigration detainees have been held in custody for (a) more than one year, (b) more than two years, and (c) more than three years.[HL5137]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): As at 30 September 2010, management information shows that of the 2,890 people in immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities detained solely under Immigration Act powers, 200 had been in detention for between a year and two years, 50 for between two years and three years, and 10 for more than three years. These figures are rounded to the nearest five and exclude people detained under both criminal and immigration powers and people detained in prison service establishments.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons 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.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101215w0001.htm#10121535000329>

Immigration: Children in Detention

Lord Dholakia: To ask Her Majesty's Government in which establishments children are detained for immigration and asylum purposes.[HL4846]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): One immigration removal centre in the UK will be used to accommodate families with children. Tinsley House accommodates family groups for approximately for 24 hours.

The Government have committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes as part of its coalition agreement and as a first step we stopped their overnight detention at Dungavel House. Today, the Deputy Prime Minister announced the immediate closure of Yarl's Wood's family unit. I refer my noble Lord to the statement made earlier today on ending the detention of children for immigration purposes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101216w0001.htm#10121655001117>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government, of the children who were in immigration detention in each of the months of May to October 2010 inclusive, what was the average length of detention of those children, calculating the length for each child to the end of the month or to the date of release, whichever was the earlier; and what was the longest period of detention experienced by those children.[HL4609]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):

Local management information indicating the length of detention for children entering immigration detention as part of a family group between 1 May 2010 and 30 October 2010 is in the attached table.

The data only relate to children detained as part of a family group. Unaccompanied children are not detained. The length of detention is calculated to the date of departure from detention, but recorded against the month in which the child entered detention. Rather than calculate the average statistic for time spent in detention, the Home Office presents the data on length of detention as ranges because this is a more informative overview and is not subject to distortions by a small number of cases with large values.

Local management information indicates that the longest period of detention for a child entering detention as part of a family unit from 1 May 2010 to 31 October 2010 was 23 days. These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

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.

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continue to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

2010	Number of children entering immigration detention	Number of children detained for seven days or less	Number of children detained for eight-14 days	Number of children detained for 15-28 days
May	32	15	5	12
June	26	18	6	2
July	12	12	0	0
Aug	5	5	0	0
Sept	17	16	1	0
Oct	13	13	0	0

Lord Dholakia: To ask Her Majesty's Government for what length of time children are expected to stay in detention for immigration and asylum purposes.[HL4847]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: Families with children are detained only when necessary and the duration of such detention is kept to the minimum, most often just for a few days immediately prior to their planned removal from the UK.

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continue to work with their corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101213w0001.htm#10121332001218>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Detention Centres: Children

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families have been separated when one parent is held in immigration detention while their children stay in the community for the purposes of immigration control in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such families were single parent families. [30823]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency will always first seek to achieve voluntary departure of illegal migrant families. Where families refuse to leave the UK, enforcement efforts will start with efforts to remove the family without the need to detain any family members. Separating parents from children is only ever done as a matter of last resort and only after careful case by case consideration.

For example, there may be circumstances where a prisoner, who is also a parent, is released from prison and a decision is made to maintain their detention under immigration powers in order to effect their deportation. Such assessments are made on a case by case basis taking into account public and child protection concerns.

However, family separations may occur for other reasons, such as for child protection purposes (which would be a matter for local authority children's services) or where the parent has chosen to separate the family by deliberately hiding the whereabouts of their children. Where children are missing the UK Border Agency will work with other statutory agencies, such as the police and local authorities, to try and locate the children and reunite them with their parent.

At present we do not centrally hold the requested information. To do so would mean examining individual case records at a disproportionate cost. In response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report into family removals the UK Border Agency committed to improving the management information held on families, which we are currently reviewing.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101216/text/101216w001.htm#10121651000041>

Asylum Seekers: Sexual Orientation

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum claims based on sexual orientation have been made by (a) men, and (b) women, in the United Kingdom in each of the past five years; and what steps they are taking to improve the accuracy of UK Border Agency operational guidance notes and country of origin information with regard to the persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. [HL4993]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The figures requested cannot be provided as the basis of asylum claims is not recorded on the UK Border Agency's case information database (CID).

UK Border Agency's Country of Origin Information (COI) Service has developed internal guidance on research and coverage of LGBT persons. External stakeholders, including the UNHCR, Stonewall and the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG), were invited to comment on the guidance. The COI Service has also met Stonewall and the UKLGIG to discuss how it could improve its coverage on LGBT persons, including how to identify additional sources and increased sharing of information. Additionally, the COI Service's products are regularly reviewed by the independent chief inspector of the UK Border Agency, including the assessment of information on LGBT persons.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101216w0001.htm#10121655001096>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on no-notice removals for families unsuccessful in seeking asylum. [30140]

Reply from Damian Green: Since the ruling in the High Court on 16 July, the UK Border Agency's policy is not to carry out reduced notice removals. The agency's policy is to give at least 72 hours notice of removal. However, previous to the injunction issued on 21 May 2010, in exceptional circumstances where the removal could not be managed in any other way, a policy of giving a reduced period of notice was used.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that asylum-seeking families have access to good quality legal advice in the early stages of the asylum-seeking process. [30141]

Reply from Damian Green: We work closely with the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to ensure that applicants are able to access appropriate levels of advice.

The LSC has introduced the Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme (IAAS), which requires all advisers doing publicly funded work to be accredited to an appropriate standard and this became compulsory in August 2005.

On 15 November the Early Legal Advice Project (ELAP) was launched. This project is a new approach that will be tested in the midlands and east region to improve decisions through early legal advice. ELAP will ensure that all applicants, including asylum seeking families, in the midlands and east region have the opportunity to access legal advice regarding their asylum claim early on in the process. The legal representatives that are taking part in ELAP have all been approved by the Legal Services Commission (LSC) and are required to be level 2 qualified.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0001.htm#10121448000063>

Asylum

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been granted discretionary leave to remain in each year since 2005. [30150]

Reply from Damian Green: The information requested is given in the following tables. Table A shows statistics for grants of discretionary leave in asylum applications while Table B shows grants in non-asylum applications for the years 2005 to 2009.

<i>Table A: Grants of discretionary leave^(1,2) on asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, including dependants, 2005 to 2009</i>					
<i>Number of persons</i>					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	⁽³⁾ 2009
Total	2,795	2,335	2,150	2,175	2,675
of whom: principal applicants	2,675	2,245	2,075	2,075	2,460

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
⁽²⁾ Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
⁽³⁾ Provisional figures.
Source: Home Office, Migration Statistics

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Table B: Grants of discretionary leave^(1,2,3) in non-asylum applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 2005 to 2009

Number of decisions					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	⁽⁴⁾ 2009
Total	2,860	3,665	4,115	5,730	11,635
of whom: principal applicants	2,790	3,570	3,460	4,725	9,335

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five.

⁽²⁾ Information is of latest decision, including the outcome of appeals and other subsequent decisions.

⁽³⁾ Derived from data presented in table 4.1 of 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom, 2009'. Grants of discretionary leave to remain in the UK are based on a management information definition and are not directly comparable with the categories published in table 4.1.

⁽⁴⁾ Provisional figures.

Source: Home Office, Migration Statistics

Statistics for grants of discretionary leave in applications for asylum in the United Kingdom are published in table 2.1 of 'Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom July-September 2010' which is available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Statistics for grants of discretionary leave in applications other than those for asylum are published within sub categories of data presented in table 4.1 of 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom, 2009'. This publication is available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website and is in the House Library.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101215/text/101215w001.htm#10121542000004>

Asylum: Work Permits

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has assessed the merits of allowing asylum seekers to apply for a work permit after six months; and if she will make a statement. [30377]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government believe it is important to maintain a distinction between economic migration and asylum and that is why an asylum applicant's claim needs to have been outstanding for at least one year before they can apply for permission to work. This is in line with our obligations under the EU reception conditions directive. We have considered the merits of reducing this threshold, but we believe such a reduction would encourage those who are not genuinely in need of protection to apply for asylum for economic reasons.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w002.htm#10121448000067>

Asylum: Finance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to link the level of support payments to asylum seekers to changes to the level of benefit payments. [30149]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency reviews the level of support provided to destitute asylum seekers annually. In doing so, a number of factors are considered which may include changes to the level of benefit payments. There

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are currently no plans to make a direct link between the level of support provided to asylum seekers and the level of benefit payments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121448000065>

Asylum: Deportation

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers identified for deportation were removed from their accommodation prior to deportation at an hour before 8 am since January 2010. [30351]

Reply from Damian Green: For the period January to November 2010, the UK Border Agency arrested a total of 585 failed asylum seekers on enforcement visits from their residential accommodation between midnight and 7.59 am. Most of these arrests took place between 6 am and 7 am following an individual case-by-case risk assessment which takes into account the likelihood of failed asylum seekers being at the premises at the time of arrest or the need to travel to the airport in time for the flight.

The figures provided are sourced from management information tools; they are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols and are subject to change. The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics and therefore should be treated as provisional.

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to inform the schools of children of asylum seekers who have been deported with these children of the action that has been taken. [30484]

Reply from Damian Green: The procedures the UK Border Agency has in place for the removal and deportation of all categories of immigration offenders, including failed asylum seekers and their families, are set out in the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual available to view on the UK Border Agency website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement. In chapter 45 of this guidance staff are instructed to notify local child welfare agencies, which include schools, of a family's detention and removal from the UK. The UK Border Agency is currently piloting a new approach to managing family cases. A key element of this is better communication and partnership working with other agencies to manage families within the immigration system who are in their care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121448000064>

Deportation

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removal directions for illegal migrants have been cancelled by the UK Border Agency in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reasons were in each case; how many of these removal directions involved non-refundable flights; and how much it cost the agency to cancel such flights. [30243]

Reply from Damian Green: 3,584⁽¹⁾ removal directions were cancelled by the UK Border Agency for non-asylum cases for the period 1 April-4 December 2010. This figure is based on instances of failed removals not numbers of individuals, ie one person could fail to be removed on a number of occasions.

The reasons in each case, the number of cases involving non-refundable flights and the cost to the agency to cancel such flights could be obtained by a detailed examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

There are many reasons for the failure of removal directions. Among the most common are: further or additional representations received on a case (the most

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

common of these are judicial review applications and initial asylum claims); disruption by the individual being removed; and cancellation of flights.

The vast majority of tickets booked for removals are either fully or part refundable.

⁽¹⁾ These figures are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removal directions for foreign national prisoners have been cancelled by the UK Border Agency in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reasons were in each case; how many of these removal directions involved non-refundable flights; and how much it cost the Agency to cancel such flights. [30244]

Reply from Damian Green: 1,143⁽¹⁾ removal directions were cancelled by UK Border Agency for foreign national prisoner (FNP) cases for the period 1 April-4 December 2010. This figure is based on instances of failed removals not numbers of individuals, i.e. one person could fail to be removed on a number of occasions. These FNP failed removals form part of the asylum and non asylum data supplied in separate answers, they are not additional failed removals.

The reasons in each case, the number of cases involving non-refundable flights and the cost to the Agency to cancel such flights could be obtained only by a detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

There are many reasons for the failure of removal directions. Amongst the most common are: further or additional representations received on a case (the most common of these are Judicial Review applications and initial asylum claims); disruption by the individual being removed; and cancellation of flights.

The vast majority of tickets booked for removals are either fully or part refundable.

⁽¹⁾ These figures are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many removal directions for failed asylum seekers have been cancelled by the UK Border Agency in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reasons were in each case; how many of these removal directions involved non-refundable flights; and how much it cost the Agency to cancel such flights. [30245]

Reply from Damian Green: 4,700⁽¹⁾ removal directions were cancelled by the UK Border Agency for asylum cases for the period 1 April to 4 December 2010. This figure is based on instances of failed removals not numbers of individuals, i.e. one person could fail to be removed on a number of occasions.

The reasons in each case, the number of cases involving non-refundable flights and the cost to the Agency to cancel such flights could be obtained only by a detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

There are many reasons for the failure of removal directions. Among the most common are: further or additional representations received on a case (the most common of these are Judicial Review applications and initial asylum claims); disruption by the individual being removed; and cancellation of flights.

The vast majority of tickets booked for removals are either fully or part refundable.

⁽¹⁾ These figures are provisional, based on management information, not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics and may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121448000070>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Deportation

Andrew Percy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many appeals before Immigration and Asylum tribunals were adjourned because her Department failed to comply with removal directions in each of the last five years. [30246]

Reply from Damian Green: There have been no recorded instances of adjournment at Immigration and Asylum Tribunal as a result of the Secretary of State's failure to comply with removal directions. The Secretary of State will only set removal directions (which give 72 hours notice of a planned removal) once an individual's in country appeal rights have been exhausted and works to ensure those directions are complied with and the individual is removed in accordance with those directions.

Litigation brought by an individual may result in removal directions being withdrawn by the Secretary of State to enable that litigation to be resolved. Such applications would not be made to the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal, but the High Court.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101215/text/101215w0001.htm#10121542000005>

Deportation: Offenders

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was spent on the facilitated return scheme in each year since 2007-08; [24209]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners received financial assistance under the facilitated return scheme in the last 12 months; [24210]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners have received financial assistance under the facilitated return scheme since 1 October 2010; [24176]

(4) how much has been spent on the facilitated return scheme since 1 October 2010; [24178]

(5) how many foreign national prisoners who received financial assistance under the facilitated return scheme are known to have returned to the UK in each of the last five years; [24179]

(6) what mechanism she has put in place to prevent a beneficiary of the facilitated return scheme returning to the UK. [24181]

Reply from Damian Green: The Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) accounted for approximately 30% of the 5,530 foreign national prisoner removals from the UK in 2009, and for around 50% of the 2,425 foreign national prisoner removals in quarters 1 and 2 of 2010. We are unable to advise at the current time the numbers who have received financial assistance and the amount spent on FRS since October 2010. Removal figures for quarter 3 of 2010 was published at the end of November, and for quarter four early in 2011. Once this information has been published the UK Border Agency will be able to confirm the number of foreign national prisoners removed under FRS and the average amount of assistance provided during those periods.

Expenditure on FRS from inception in October 2006 to March 2009 was approximately £4.3 million. The cost of running the scheme for 2009-10 was £7.1 million (including £2.3 million of EU funding) and for 2010-11 is expected to be £9.7 million (including £2.7 million of EU funding). This is a slightly higher figure than previously reported for 2009-10 as the scheme has been successful in removing a larger number of foreign national prisoners than estimated.

The Facilitated Return Scheme is a practical solution that not only saves the taxpayer money in the long run, but also means foreign criminals are removed as soon as possible, denying them the opportunity to re-offend or drag out the removals process. All foreign national prisoners are entered on our watch list

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

when removed, so checks can be made to prevent those who are barred and those who have no right from re-entering the UK.

Only in the most exceptional circumstances would an individual who had taken the FRS package be approved for re-entry to the UK, or for their exclusion to be lifted by the Home Secretary. These cases are considered very carefully and in line with policy. We are aware of two individuals removed under FRS who have later successfully applied to have their exclusion orders lifted, to allow them to return to the UK. We are also aware of a small number of individuals who have re-entered illegally having taken up FRS. In such cases we take urgent action to remove them from the UK. They would not be eligible to re-apply for the scheme.

In order to make the scheme more affordable and bring it in line with other assisted voluntary, return programmes, it has been necessary to reduce the amount of assistance given to those who leave the country under FRS. As of 1 October 2010, those who apply for and are accepted onto the scheme will receive a reduced cash payment amount. We anticipate that high numbers of individuals will continue to take up the scheme and we will monitor the level of applications over the coming months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121448000071>

Human Trafficking: Compensation

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what compensation victims of human trafficking may receive from (a) the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and (b) assets seized from traffickers without adversely affecting their entitlement to benefits; and if he will make a statement. [30196]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: Victims of human trafficking are able to claim compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme for physical injury or psychological injuries. This ability to claim is not dependent upon prosecution of the perpetrator.

In addition, prosecutors may request compensation following confiscation of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The court has discretion to make both a compensation order and a confiscation order against the same person in the same proceedings if it believes that the defendant will have sufficient means to satisfy both orders in full. Alternatively, the court may order that all or part of the compensation order be paid out of the confiscation order.

Neither of these compensation measures affects victims' entitlement to support services provided to victims during their recovery and reflection period.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101213/text/101213w0002.htm#10121337000019>

People Trafficking

Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of media reports that human trafficking of women and girls, particularly from the north-eastern states of India into Delhi, increased in the lead-up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, they have made representations to the Government of India about those reports; if so, with what result; and what help the United Kingdom has offered to the Government of India to help prevent such trafficking. [HL4749]

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We have not made specific representations about these reports. However, the UK Government are committed to working with international partners to address the problem of human trafficking. Through the EU we continue to encourage India to ratify and implement the UN Convention against

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol on People Trafficking. We will continue to raise the most pressing human rights issues through the EU-India human rights dialogue.

The EU has run three projects during the period 2000-2010 on human trafficking in India, focusing on both interstate trafficking in India and regional trafficking in south Asia.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of media reports that human trafficking of women and girls, particularly from the north-eastern states of India into Delhi, increased in the lead-up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, athletes, officials and spectators from the United Kingdom were warned that women and girls in the sex trade in India have been trafficked.[HL4750]

Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford: Athletes, officials and spectators were not warned specifically about reported trafficking of women and girls in the sex trade in India ahead of the Commonwealth Games. We provided travel advice to British nationals attending the Games focused on their personal security, health and safety.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of media reports that human trafficking of women and girls, particularly from the north-eastern states of India into Delhi, increased in the lead-up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, any lessons have been learnt from Delhi's experience in advance of the 2012 London Olympics.[HL4822]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government are aware that in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympics criminals may seek to profit from the Games by increasing their activities, including in relation to human trafficking.

Intelligence on organised crime, including human trafficking, is regularly reviewed as part of the Olympics organised crime threat assessment. Current intelligence and available research evidence do not indicate an increased threat of human trafficking in relation to the London 2012 Olympics.

However, if this situation changes, our response will draw on lessons to be learnt from the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of media reports that human trafficking of women and girls, particularly from the north-eastern states of India into Delhi, increased in the lead-up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games, they have made representations to the Government of India about the reported cases of child labour in the construction of the Commonwealth Games facilities as a result of debt bondage.[HL4823]

Reply from Lord Howell of Guildford: We have not made specific representations about the reported cases of child labour in the construction of the Commonwealth Games facilities. However, child rights remain a high priority in our work to promote equality and tackle discrimination in India and the UK Government engage on this issue with relevant authorities. Through the EU, we continue to encourage India to ratify and implement as a priority International Labour Organisation Conventions 138 and 182 relating to child labour and to withdraw its reservation to article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which explicitly prohibits child labour.

We will continue to raise child rights issues with the Indian Government through the EU-India human rights dialogue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101213w0002.htm#10121332001233>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of sentence handed down to a person convicted of offences related to human trafficking was in each of the last five years. [21738]

Reply from Damian Green: The following figures are provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre's interrogation of the Police National Computer.

Trafficking for forced labour arrest (but no trafficking conviction)

2006-11.5 months

2007-One year nine months

2008-Two years

2009-11.3 months

2010-Five years nine months

Trafficking for sexual exploitation arrest (but no trafficking conviction)

2006-Three years one month

2007-Two years two months

2008-Two years two months

2009-One year eight months

2010-Three years six months

The information in this answer was previously provided to you erroneously in my response to parliamentary question 21737 on 19 November 2010, Official Report, column 1001-02W. The question asked for average length of sentence for those originally charged with offences related to human trafficking but subsequently prosecuted for a lesser charge in each of the last five years. The answer to that question should have stated that it was not possible to provide an answer as the Police National Computer does not hold details of charge history. I apologise for this error and hope that this answer clarifies the responses to both questions.

Denis MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of Stop the Traffik to discuss her policy on human trafficking. [30557]

Reply from Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking. On 14 October I visited Stop the Traffik to mark Anti-Slavery Day.

Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet Save the Children to discuss child trafficking prior to her announcement of a strategy for human trafficking. [30831]

Reply from Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

Stephen Phillips: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will discuss with Soroptimist International her Department's policy on the publication and distribution of advertisements for sexual services prior to concluding her proposed strategy on human trafficking. [30869]

Reply from Damian Green: We are considering what can be done to prevent the advertising of sexual services in local newspapers. We have received correspondence from Soroptimist International on this issue and will take into

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

account their representations before deciding whether further action should be taken to prevent the advertising of sexual services, including, where appropriate, through the upcoming human trafficking strategy.

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of the Human Trafficking Foundation to discuss the development of policy on human trafficking. [30876]

Reply from Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

Mr Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of Kalayaan to discuss her policy on human trafficking and the eradication of domestic slavery. [30884]

Reply from Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the identification of, and provision of support to, victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Home Office officials will shortly be contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy on human trafficking.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101215/text/101215w0001.htm#10121542000009>

Human Trafficking: International Cooperation

Jim Shannon: To ask the Attorney-General what co-operation there is between the police and police forces in (a) other European countries and (b) non-European countries in respect of human trafficking. [30531]

Reply from Damian Green: Effective collaboration and co-operation with international law enforcement partners is an essential part of the United Kingdom's approach to tackling human trafficking.

As part of the overall programme to tackle organised immigration crime, including human trafficking, the Serious Organised Crime Agency runs programmes of activity which focus on source and transit countries. This involves co-operation with international law enforcement agencies bilaterally and through Interpol and Europol.

The Metropolitan police service in conjunction with the Romanian national police established a Joint Investigation Team. This led to a number of arrests in both the UK and Romania of an organised crime gang involved in trafficking children to the UK and within Europe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101215/text/101215w0002.htm#1012161000020>

Press Releases

Judicial review on interim limit

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/56-judicial-review-interim-limit>

New compassionate approach to family returns

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/family-returns>

Immigration and Asylum **Press Releases** (continued)

Scotland led way in ending child detention for asylum seeker families

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/14744.html>

"Mythbusting" campaign needed to dispel migrant misinformation

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-comm-10/ceq10-s3-007.htm>

Extended student visitor visa for migrants studying English language courses

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/34-extended-student-visitor-visa>

Changes to the certificate of approval scheme

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/32-coa-changes>

Biometric resident permits - Tiers 1 and 5 of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/47biometrics-resident-permits>

Solicitor jailed over bogus college scam

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/bogus-college>

Money sent by migrants to their country of origin fell by 7% in 2009

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/2-13122010-BP/EN/2-13122010-BP-EN.PDF

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

Parliament approves tougher rules to combat trafficking in human beings

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101214IPR09488/html/Parliament-approves-tougher-rules-to-combat-trafficking-in-human-beings>

The Commission appoints an EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1715&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quiLanguage=en>

Residence rights for refugees and people under international protection

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101213IPR09468/html/Residence-rights-for-refugees-and-people-under-international-protection>

Mapping Statelessness in the UK

<http://www.unhcr.org.uk/resources/monthly-updates/december-2010/mapping-statelessness-in-the-uk.html>

European Court finds marriage fee discriminatory

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2010/december/european-court-finds-marriage-fee-discriminatory/>

No agreement on legislation on a single permit to live and work in the EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101214IPR09848/html/No-agreement-on-a-single-permit-to-live-and-work-in-the-EU>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

Unaccompanied Minors in the Migration Process

http://www.frontex.europa.eu/download/Z2Z4L2Zyb250ZXgvZW4vZGVmYXVsdF9ha3R1YWxub3NjaS8zMS84Ni8x/unaccompanied_minors_public_5_dec.pdf

Student Migration – key facts and figures

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Student_Migration_-_key_facts_and_figures_6_12_10.doc

Consulting immigrants to improve national policies

http://www.migpolgroup.com/public/docs/183.TH-EESC_study_on_consultative_bodies_29.11.10.pdf

Ending the Detention of Children: Developing an Alternative Approach to Family Returns

http://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/Alternatives_to_child_detention.pdf

A Study of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Service User Distribution by Integration Network Area

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/1298/Population_distribution_by_Networks_Dec2010.pdf

The coming of the stranger: asylum seekers, trust and hospitality in a British city

http://www.unhcr.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/images/Updates/december_update/The_coming_of_a_stranger.pdf

Migrations and Development: European Guide to practices

http://www.eunomad.org/images/Migration_Development_Eunomad_Guide_EN.pdf

News

Introduction of immigration cap deemed 'unlawful'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12022613>

Immigration cap overturned by high court judges

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/17/high-court-overturns-immigration-cap>

Ministers battle to prevent 'rush' of non-EU migrants after interim cap ruled unlawful

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8210319/Ministers-battle-to-prevent-rush-of-non-EU-migrants-after-interim-cap-ruled-unlawful.html>

Londonderry couple 's victory on sham wedding law

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-11990500>

Detaining children of failed asylum seekers to end

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12005701>

Decision to end child detention welcomed

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Decision-to-end-child-detention.6663527.jp>

Detention of children of asylum seekers 'is to end'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/detention-of-children-of-asylum-seekers-is-to-end-1.1074879>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Charities accuse Nick Clegg of 'rebranding detention' over children of asylum seekers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/16/charities-accuse-nick-clegg-of-rebranding-detention>

Nick Clegg: 'shameful' detention of children in asylum centres to end by May

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/dec/16/nick-clegg-shameful-detention-children-end>

Nick Clegg: children will no longer be locked up in immigration detention centres

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8204528/Nick-Clegg-children-will-no-longer-be-locked-up-in-immigration-detention-centres.html>

Iraqi asylum-seeker who killed girl in hit and run allowed to stay in UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/16/iraqi-killed-girl-remain-uk>

Hideously diverse Britain: There's no taste like home

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/dec/15/hideously-diverse-britain-taste-home>

Harriet Harman criticised for 'heroic' immigrants comment

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/8198016/Harriet-Harman-criticised-for-heroic-immigrants-comment.html>

Visa quotas 'will hit research backed by Cameron', says top scientist

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/health/news/article2848540.ece>

Family of 'bullied' daughter lose claim for asylum

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/family-of-bullied-daughter-lose-claim-for-asylum-1.1075301>

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Race Relations

News

We're all one family

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/features/We39re-all-one-family.6470645.jp>

Hardeep Singh Kohli: I belong to Glasgow

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/features/Hardeep-Singh-Kohli-I-belong.6658401.jp>

Why did multiculturalism become a dirty word? It made me who I am

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/dec/19/anushka-asthana-multiculturalism-good>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Racism

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-34777 by Fergus Ewing on 21 July 2010, whether it considers that the conviction of Mohammed Sandia for posting anti-Semitic material on The Scotsman website is sufficient evidence that anti-Semitic graffiti at Glenduffhill Jewish cemetery was not an isolated incident. (S3W-37794)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: We are aware of the recently reported conviction of an individual, following the posting of comments on newspaper websites. We are not aware of any connection between this incident and the incident referred to in S3W-34777.

However, the Scottish Government takes any incidents of anti-Semitic behaviour as of the utmost gravity whether these are isolated incidents or not. We condemn and abhor anti-Semitic views and anti-Semitic behaviour. We continue to work productively with the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and others and through this we can achieve the aspiration of One Scotland of many cultures, faiths and beliefs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-37794>

Press Releases

Communities Minister announces new measures to tackle Antisemitism

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1798442>

On eve of Year for People of African Descent, Ban calls for final end to racism

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37018&Cr=racism&Cr1>

New publications

All-Party Inquiry into Antisemitism: Government response - Three years on progress report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1798120.pdf>

Caste discrimination and harassment in Great Britain

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/docs/101213%20NIESR%20Report%20on%20Caste%20Discrimination%20in%20Great%20Britain.doc>

Summary

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/docs/101214%20Summary%20of%20Caste%20Discrimination%20in%20Great%20Britain.doc>

News

Scotland, the Irish, 'sectarianism' and racism

<http://politics.caledonianmercury.com/2010/12/13/opinion-scotland-the-irish-sectarianism-and-racism/>

BNP leader Nick Griffin wins court contempt battle

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12014807>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

BNP's Nick Griffin defeats contempt legal bid

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bnps-nick-griffin-defeats-contempt-legal-bid-2162992.html>

BNP leader Nick Griffin avoids contempt of court penalties

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/dec/17/bnp-nick-griffin-contempt-of-court-ruling>

BNP and equality group both claim victory in legal wrangle

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/dec/17/bnp-nick-griffin-equality-contempt>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Gypsies/Travellers

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what resources are made available to support the education of Gypsy/Traveller children. (S3W-37966)

Reply from Adam Ingram: The Scottish Government is committed to supporting and improving the education of all children and young people. All children should benefit from an education system that is engaging, relevant, tailored to their needs and best prepares them for their future lives. Curriculum for Excellence should lead to improved quality of learning and teaching and increased attainment and achievement for all children and young people, irrespective of where that learning takes place. The Scottish Government recognises that some children and young people need extra help to enable them to benefit fully from education and is currently providing funding of £65,000 in this financial year to the Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP). STEP aims to improve educational opportunities for Scotland's travelling communities. The Scottish Government is also providing up to £50,000 to the STEP *eLearning and Traveller Education Scotland* (eLATES) programme in 2010-11. The e-learning community programme provides distance learning with "anytime anywhere" access for Gypsy/Traveller and travelling show and fairground young people.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-37966>

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what resources are made available to the Scottish Traveller Education Programme and the e-learning and traveller education project. (S3W-37967)

Reply from Adam Ingram: The Scottish Government is providing funding totalling £65,000 to the Scottish Traveller Education Programme and up to £50,000 for the Scottish Traveller Education Programme *e-Learning and Traveller Education Scotland* (eLATES) in this financial year (2010-11).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-37967>

Press Release

Forced marriage

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/12/14120740>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Travellers: Children

George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of Travelling families with children who have no fixed abode. [29858]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The July 2010 caravan count showed there were 3,636 caravans which have no authorised place to stop. The caravan count does not capture the detail of family type and so specific figures for Traveller families with children are not available.

George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Travelling families with children were recorded as having a fixed residence in each year since 2001. [29859]

Reply from Andrew Stunell: The twice yearly caravan count does not capture the detail of family type and so specific figures for Traveller families with children are not available. The caravan count shows the following figures of authorised Traveller caravans in England since 2001:

<i>Period of count</i>	<i>Caravans on socially rented sites</i>	<i>Caravans on authorised private sites</i>
January 2001	6,336	4,564
July 2001	6,201	4,255
January 2002	6,178	4,660
July 2002	6,145	4,571
January 2003	6,138	4,806
July 2003	6,042	4,684
January 2004	5,848	4,890
July 2004	5,976	4,904
January 2005	6,427	5,502
July 2005	6,454	5,371
January 2006	6,636	5,838
July 2006	6,560	5,815
January 2007	6,564	6,509
July 2007	6,605	6,552
January 2008	6,696	7,351
July 2008	6,553	7,083
January 2009	6,785	7,400
July 2009	6,603	7,105
January 2010	6,870	7,866
July 2010	6,862	7,648

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/text/101214w0002.htm#10121453000022>

Food: Kosher and Halal Meat

Lord Stoddart of Swindon: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Henley on 30 November (WA 433-34) concerning kosher and halal slaughtered meat, whether, in their discussions with the food industry, they will raise the

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

right of the majority of people to be informed about whether meat has been slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs.[HL5101]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord Henley): I refer the noble Lord to the answer I gave him on 30 November (*Official Report*, col. WA433-34). I can again confirm that we believe people should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out and that this includes those who wish to know whether meat has been obtained from an animal slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs. Our discussions with the food industry have looked at the need to inform all consumers, regardless of whether they have a religious requirement for meat to be prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs or not.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101216w0001.htm#10121655001108>

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Other News

Tayside Hindu centre among targets of vandals

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/Dundee/article/8585/tayside-hindu-centre-among-targets-of-vandals.html>

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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 from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, the Muslim Council of Scotland, and the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-10/he10-3802.htm#Col3861>

Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill

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

**** Local Electoral Administration Bill**

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

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/lgc/or-10/lg10-3002.htm#Col3912>

Public Records Bill

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

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/119/amend/pbc1191312a.1271-1273.html>

Constitution Committee Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldselect/ldconst/69/6902.htm>

**** House of Lords Reform Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/008/amend/am008-a.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/008/amend/am008-b.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/008/amend/am008-c.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/008/amend/am008-d.htm>

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

Ping Pong, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101214/debtext/101214-0003.htm#10121451000003>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/019/amend/ml019-ri.htm>

Explanatory note on Lords amendment

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/113/en/2011113en.pdf>

**** 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-v.htm>

and

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

and

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

and

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101213-0001.htm#1012132000477>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101215-0001.htm#10121533000868>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101215-0003.htm#10121557000079>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

** Scotland Bill

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

Call for written evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/documents/Callforevidence.pdf>

Evidence from the Scotland Office, Treasury, and Advocate General for Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/or-10/sb10-0202.htm>

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Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

** *closes next week!*

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

** *closes next week!*

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/>

** **Scotland Bill** (14 January 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scotBill/documents/Callforevidence.pdf>

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/BDPMGTM>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Community Chest

Closing date for applications: 7 January 2011

Voluntary Action Fund small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 and free training to help small community groups in Scotland sustain and develop their activities, for example: training for committee members and volunteers, visits to other organisations or conferences; and professional support or consultancy. For information see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5,40/grants/communtty_chest/

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

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.

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The second pilot programme will begin in 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.

**** From the Ballot Box to the Podium: Mobilising Immigrant Voters and Political Leadership**

25 January 2011

Webinar to explore how under-represented ethnic groups can be engaged, bringing fresh ideas and alternative perspectives to the political table. For information see <http://citiesofmigration.ca/integration-learning-exchange/calendar/lang/en/>

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Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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



BEMIS is the 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/>