

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 3 September, and the UK Parliament is in recess until 5 September. During this period MEMO will be issued on 6 and 20 August, and 10 September.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Student Visas

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in the immigration rules. The changes support the introduction of a new targeted interview programme by the UK Border Agency, to ensure students seeking to abuse the immigration system are identified and refused a visa for the UK. The UK Border Agency plans to interview between 10,000 and 14,000 student visa applicants over the coming year.

The first change makes provision for an entry clearance officer to be satisfied that an applicant is a genuine student before granting entry clearance under tier 4 of the points-based system. The second change makes provision for an entry clearance officer to

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

refuse to issue entry clearance where the applicant fails to attend an interview without providing a reasonable explanation. Both changes will be effective from 30 July 2012.

From December 2011 to the end of February 2012 the UK Border Agency ran an interviewing pilot. The pilot assessed the effectiveness of interviewing more student visa applicants. It also considered the requirement for and potential impact of a new power to refuse entry clearance on grounds of genuineness. Over 2,300 visa applicants from 47 countries were interviewed. Seventeen per cent of those interviewed were refused a visa under existing powers. Entry clearance officers indicated they could have refused up to 32% of the remainder on grounds of genuineness. The full evaluation report of the pilot is being published today, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Since 2011 the Government have overhauled the student visa system to tackle abuse while continuing to attract and retain the brightest and best students who will help drive growth in the economy. It has introduced a range of measures to tighten controls on institutions sponsoring international students, remove the entitlements that provided false incentives to those motivated by work not study, and ensure only those with the most to offer remain in the UK at the end of their course. Over 450 colleges have now lost their right to bring international students to the UK, and the number of student visas issued in the year to March 2012 fell by 21%.

While these changes have significantly strengthened the student visa regime, the pilot study identified some residual abuse. The findings indicate that targeted overseas interviews, supported by new powers of refusal, are useful additional tools to support entry clearance officers to identify and tackle it. These risk-based controls will be used alongside the wide range of other checks already operated by the UK Border Agency.

These measures do not alter the duty on tier 4 sponsors to satisfy themselves that an applicant is able and intends to follow the course of study. They are designed to protect reputable providers that have made offers to students in good faith, and would otherwise risk UK Border Agency compliance action. Providers often undertake recruitment activity remotely, through agents.

Interviewing will provide an additional layer of scrutiny, where needed, to help safeguard institutions. Interviews also will provide applicants with every opportunity to demonstrate how they meet the genuine student rule. Students from low-risk countries who already benefit from a streamlined visa application process will be exempt from the genuineness test.

Further details on the application of these provisions will be set out in UK Border Agency guidance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/wmstext/120709m0001.htm#12070911000006>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Nationality: Assessments

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 11 June 2012, *Official Report*, column 48, on family migration, whether applicants who successfully meet the English language requirements and pass the Life in the UK test prior to 9 July 2012, but who experience delays on the part of the awarding organisations with the issuing of the necessary certification, will be admitted under the rules in place prior to 9 July 2012 if the certification is not received until after that date. [115007]

Reply from Damian Green: Applicants for limited leave to enter or remain in the UK as a spouse or partner must provide evidence that they have attained the relevant language qualification. If there is a delay in receiving a certificate UK

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Border Agency may be able to accept a transcript from the exam board. However, if it cannot be established that the person has met the relevant requirement, the application cannot be granted. Applications received on or after 9 July will be dealt with under the new family migration rules described in the statement of 11 June. Changes to the Life in the UK Test, which is required for those seeking indefinite leave to remain in the UK, will not take place until later this year. From October 2013, applicants for indefinite leave will be required to pass the revised Life in the UK test and obtain an intermediate level speaking and listening qualification in English (i.e. at level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/text/120709w0003.htm#120710800010>

Immigration Controls

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the Immigration Rules prevent a non EEA spouse of a British citizen from settling in the UK with their British children whilst the British citizen is working overseas. [116044]

Reply from Damian Green: When a person is applying for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom as a non-EEA spouse of a British citizen, they need to give evidence of their intention to live permanently in the UK.

If the British citizen is not present and settled in the UK at the time of the application, it would be more difficult for them to show this intention.

The fact that the British citizen in question works overseas is not a barrier in itself to settlement in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/text/120709w0003.htm#120710800021>

Immigration Controls

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people had their applications for further leave to remain refused in 2011; and how many of them e-borders recorded as subsequently leaving the UK. [R] [117377]

Reply from Damian Green : In 2011, there were 54,272 decisions, including dependants, to refuse an application for an extension of stay in the United Kingdom.

This is a provisional figure released in table ex.01 in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics January—March 2012' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/?view=Standard&pubID=1024555>

The e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the UK, but does not collect information specifically on individuals identified as having been refused further leave to remain, except when they leave the UK on certain routes.

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrived on visitor visas in 2011; and how many of them e-borders recorded as subsequently leaving the UK. [R] [117378]

Reply from Damian Green: The requested information is not yet available for 2011. Statistics on numbers of passenger arrivals to the United Kingdom in 2011, by reason for entry, are scheduled for release in the in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics April—June 2012' on 30 August 2012. The release will be

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available from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages at:
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/> T

he e-Borders system enables checks to be made on individuals arriving or exiting the UK, but does not collect information specifically on individuals identified as having left the UK, except when they have done so on certain routes.

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of people granted settlement outside of the immigration rules. [R] [117379]

Reply from Damian Green: On 13 June 2012 the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), laid a Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules on family migration, which came into force on 9 July 2012. A person who does not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules will no longer be considered for discretionary leave outside the rules on Article 8 grounds. Provision has now been made in the Rules themselves for leave to remain on the basis of private or family life. The eligibility for this leave, and the conditions attached to it, are set out in the Rules. This brings to an end the previous widespread practice of granting discretionary leave outside the rules on Article 8 grounds. In future, if a person does not qualify for leave under the rules, or for leave outside the rules on a genuinely exceptional basis, they will not receive any form, of leave and will be expected to leave the UK.

Full details are in the Statement of Intent, available on the UK Border Agency website at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/soi-fam-mig.pdf> and in the House of Commons Library.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period of time an application for a Highly Trusted Sponsor Certificate has taken to determine for applications which were outstanding at July 2010. [117813]

Reply from Damian Green: Of those Highly Trusted Sponsor applications which were submitted before 1 July 2010 and remained outstanding after 31 July 2010, the longest period of time it took to make a decision was 658 days.

This was an exceptional case involving issues with sponsor accreditation and required further investigation.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was for the Border Agency to determine an application for a Highly Trusted Sponsor Certificate in the latest period for which figures are available. [117814]

Reply from Damian Green: The average length of time taken to determine an application for Highly Trusted Sponsor (HTS) status is shown as follows.

	<i>Cases despatched</i>	<i>Average processing time (days)</i>
2010	694	78
2011	800	122
2012 (year to date)	620	167

The figures provided have been derived from local management information and have not been subject to national statistical protocols.

This information excludes those applications where there is no received or despatched date, i.e. where publicly funded educational institutions were automatically given HTS status for the first 12 months. The average processing time for HTS applications has increased since 2010 principally because the application process is more detailed. More automated processes have been introduced to ensure that applications are dealt with in a timely fashion.

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Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for Highly Trusted Sponsor Certificates remain to be determined by the UK Border Agency. [117815]

Reply from Damian Green: As of 12 July 2012, 936 Highly Trusted Sponsor applications remain to be determined.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120717/text/120717w0002.htm#12071796000064>

Entry Clearances

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for family visitor visas there were in each year from 1997 to 2011; how many of those were granted; how many times appeals were made against refusal of such applications; how many of those appeals were upheld in each such year; and what her most recent estimate is of the average cost to her Department of such an appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [115724]

Reply from Damian Green [*holding answer 6 July 2012*]: The information requested for each calendar year since 2004 is shown in the following table. The information is not available for previous years, as this data was not recorded centrally for all of the visa sections prior to 2004, and to collate it would incur disproportionate costs.

<i>Family visit visas</i>					
	<i>Applications received</i> ⁽¹⁾	<i>Visas issued</i> ⁽¹⁾	<i>Appeals received</i> ⁽²⁾	<i>Appeals decided</i> ⁽²⁾	<i>Appeals allowed</i> ^(2, 3)
2004	354,029	247,987	28,803	22,707	10,889
2005	456,985	330,638	55,813	25,556	10,733
2006	501,565	375,940	47,672	65,507	24,349
2007	473,470	354,061	61,028	57,608	20,297
2008	414,656	313,377	65,283	59,881	23,180
2009	426,789	332,781	63,449	64,860	26,312
2010	423,042	350,311	51,702	64,237	25,630
2011	443,948	370,105	44,809	50,137	16,783

⁽¹⁾ This data is based on internal UKBA Management Information. It is provisional and subject to change. ⁽²⁾ This is data provided/published by HM Courts and Tribunals Service. Appeals received is a discrete data set and not restricted to appeals arising from refusals in each year. ⁽³⁾ This is the number of appeals decided in each year that were allowed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120710/text/120710w0001.htm#12071086000011>

Immigration (Integration)

Richard Fuller: What steps [is the Minister] taking under immigration rules to promote better integration. [115543]

Sajid Javid: What steps [is the Minister] taking under immigration rules to promote better integration. [115553]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Our immigration reforms will return migration to sustainable levels in the tens of thousands, reducing pressures on communities. Changes to family immigration rules will ensure that migrants are not a burden on the taxpayer but can speak English and pay their way, and a new “Life in the UK” test will have British history and culture at its heart. All of that will help ensure that migrants are better able to integrate in the UK.

Richard Fuller: ... Will the Minister assure me that he will continue to promote those

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values, rather than the pattern of welfare dependency that has emerged in recent years?

Reply from Damian Green: Absolutely. My hon. Friend makes an entirely valid point, because most immigrants come here to work and we should encourage them to do so. That is why our new “Life in the UK” test booklet will concentrate more on British history, British values and great people in British history and rather less than the previous Government’s version did on how to claim benefits.

Sajid Javid: When my parents left their homeland in the 1960s to settle in the UK, they brought with them a deep respect and love for Britain. Sadly, too few migrants share that approach today. I therefore welcome the changes to the “Life in the UK” test that my hon. Friend has outlined. Does he agree that they will help to underline the importance of immigrants learning the English language?

Reply from Damian Green: That is absolutely right. It is obvious that it is easier for someone to make a success of their life in a new country if they can speak the language properly. That is why we have increased the English requirements across the board for migrants who intend to settle here. That will help them not only to integrate better in the wider community but to make a success of their own lives. Opposition Members who campaign against the changes are letting down future generations of migrants to this country.

Nick Raynsford: Does the Minister accept that a continuing huge backlog of unprocessed cases in the “legacy” category, along with arbitrary and at times unfair decisions against genuine and entirely meritorious applicants for visas to visit relatives in the UK, continues to make it very difficult to promote effective immigration among sections of ethnic minorities who believe that the rules are not being applied fairly?

Reply from Damian Green: On legacy cases, the right hon. Gentleman is entirely right. In the middle of the last decade, half a million cases were famously discovered, and we are sorting that out. The asylum archive is now down by 24,000 from the high of 98,000 that it reached in 2011, so this Government, unlike the previous one, are getting to grips with the terrible problems that we inherited. We are increasingly successful in providing not just sustainable levels of immigration but a system in which people can—

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/debtext/120709-0001.htm#1207099000017>

Overseas Students

Hugh Bayley: How many visas were issued to overseas students to study at UK universities in the 2011-12 academic year. [115540]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Figures for the 2011-12 academic year are not yet available, but 206,176 tier 4 student visas were issued in the year to March 2012. This figure covers all students, including those attending university. Last week, Universities UK told the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee that universities are projecting an increase in international students coming to the UK, and UCAS applications from international students have risen by 10%.

Hugh Bayley: We have some of the best universities in the world, and overseas students contribute £8 billion to our national economy and balance of trade. There has been lots of speculation over the weekend that the Government are about to change the migration figures so as to exclude overseas students. Will the Minister make a statement about the Government’s intentions, and will he think seriously about what can be done with the visa regime and the language requirements to encourage more genuine students to study at British universities?

Reply from Damian Green: I will happily make a statement now. There are no plans at all to change the definition of immigration. A student who comes here for

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three years or more is as much of an immigrant as somebody who comes on a work visa for two years or more. There is an international definition of immigration which covers everyone who moves to another country for more than a year, so students who come here for more than a year are included in that definition.

Peter Lilley: Will my hon. Friend reject any pressures to change the policy on students coming here in the light of the fact that the OECD estimates that a quarter of students subsequently stay on, 120,000 of them settle and 120,000 seek and are granted extensions of their stay while they are here, and there are some 150,000 outstanding illegal immigrants who came here on university visas?

Reply from Damian Green: My right hon. Friend makes a number of powerful points. There is, of course, no cap on genuine students coming to study genuinely at genuine institutions, and some of our universities, which are indeed the best in the world, benefit hugely from that. Nevertheless, we have driven out a huge amount of abuse in the student visa system. More than 500 colleges that used to take foreign students can no longer do so because we put in a proper checking and accreditation regime.

Virendra Sharma: Many colleges' licences have been cancelled for several reasons. Many students have been issued visas at the British high commissions in Delhi, Pakistan and other places. How many were refused entry at the airport when they arrived due to the cancellations of their colleges' licences?

Reply from Damian Green: I am afraid that I cannot give the figure off the top of my head, but I doubt whether most of them would have been refused entry at the airport. I would say to the hon. Gentleman, and indeed to prospective students, that because of the action that we have taken in driving out abuse it is very much less likely now than two years ago for any genuine student from overseas to arrive in Britain and find that they have registered with a bogus college. Removing these bogus colleges has an enormous benefit for the British taxpayer and the integrity of our immigration system, but it also helps genuine foreign students to know that from now on they will be coming to get a proper education in Britain.

Julian Brazier: Does my hon. Friend agree that while overseas students are vital for our universities, this has become an increasingly abused immigration route, and that the blanket removal of students from the statistics would drive a coach and horses through the excellent measures that he has introduced?

Reply from Damian Green: I agree completely with the final point that my hon. Friend made. He was right about the abuse. I am happy to report to him and the House that, as of today, we are introducing more widespread interviewing of students to check their ability to benefit from a course here. We ran a pilot between December and February, and discovered that 17% of those who had been accepted on a course in this country should be refused because they could not even speak basic conversational English. There is always more abuse to drive out and we will continue to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/debtext/120709-0001.htm#1207099000014>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU students had their leave to remain curtailed because of a breach of their visa conditions in 2011. [114866]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not keep records of those students whose leave under Tier 4 of the Points-based System was curtailed specifically on the grounds that they had breached their conditions of stay.

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Up to 30 June 2012, the UK Border Agency had curtailed the leave of over 29,000 students who had leave to remain under Tier 4 of the Points-based System. This figure includes all curtailments under Tier 4 and is not limited to those students who had leave curtailed due to a breach of visa conditions.

The figure provided above has been derived from local management information and has not been subject to national statistical protocols.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU students were found to be in breach of their visa conditions in 2011. [114867]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency does not keep records of those students whose leave under Tier 4 of the Points-based System was curtailed specifically on the grounds that they had breached their conditions of stay.

Up to 30 June 2012, the UK Border Agency had curtailed the leave of over 29,000 students who had leave to remain under Tier 4 of the Points-based System. This figure includes all curtailments under Tier 4 and is not limited to those students who had leave curtailed due to a breach of visa conditions.

The figure provided above has been derived from local management information and has not been subject to national statistical protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120710/text/120710w0001.htm#12071086000012>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students were granted Tier 4 entry clearance for each level of course studied in the latest period for which figures are available. [117010]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of tier 4 student entry clearance visas issued from January to March 2012 was 18,405.

To provide an accurate answer to the question tabled would require the examination of individual records, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer from the Minister of State for Universities and Science of 19 March 2012, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W, on overseas students: entry clearances, if she will carry out an assessment of the effect of changes to the Tier 4 visa system on the international reputation of the UK's higher education sector. [117065]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government continues to welcome the brightest and best students to our world-leading academic institutions. Our student visa policies represent a great offer to international students. Those with an offer from a licensed institution, who can speak English and support themselves in the UK, can come here, with no limits on numbers. University graduates can stay and work if they have an offer of a job paying £20,000 or more. Our new educational oversight arrangements ensure that genuine foreign students can have confidence that they are studying at a bona fide institution offering a good standard of education.

Official Higher Education Statistics Agency statistics on the number of non-EU students at universities during the 2011-12 academic year will not be available until February 2013. However, UCAS figures continue to show an increasing number of international students applying to study at our universities, and the UK's universities continue to report growth.

The Government does not intend to carry out any assessment of the effect of changes to Tier 4 to the international reputation of the UK's higher education sector. The measures we have taken to tackle abuse and protect the position of our world-class universities should enhance the reputation of UK education

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overseas. But it is the quality and value of the education on offer, not the visa regime, that should be the key determinant of international reputation.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to introducing a new category of study visa. [117426]

Reply from Damian Green: For students from outside the European Economic Area on courses longer than six months a Tier 4 general student visa is required. Where a student is studying for less than six months a student visitor visa can be used. In 2011 the Government introduced a new Extended Student Visitor category. This allows English language students to remain for up to 11 months. The Government is satisfied that these routes are adequate and there are no current plans to introduce a new category of study visa.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas issued in 2011 were for study at (a) Higher Education institutions, (b) private further education colleges, (c) public further education colleges and (d) language colleges. [117433]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of entry clearance visas issued in 2011 for the purposes of study, including tier 4 (students) and student visitors was 322,653.

To provide a more detailed breakdown would require the examination of individual records, which would incur disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120717/text/120717w0002.htm#12071796000061>

Entry Clearances: Carers

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the issuing of visas to non-UK citizens who are paid overseas as permanent carers for UK citizens based overseas and are accompanying that UK citizen on a short visit to the UK; and what class of visa such carers would be allocated. [117542]

Reply from Damian Green: Where an overseas-based UK citizen is returning to the UK for a short visit lasting no more than six months, they may be accompanied by an established domestic employee providing personal care. The carer must meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules for domestic workers in overseas households. These include the requirement that the worker has been employed in this capacity by the UK citizen for a period of at least one year. Successful applicants are issued with a domestic worker visa. Whilst in the UK, the domestic worker is subject to UK employment laws and must have agreed written terms and conditions of employment with their employer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120717/text/120717w0002.htm#12071796000060>

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle illegal immigration. [115514]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is taking steps to tackle illegal immigration. These include significantly tightening the work, study and family migration routes and bringing in reforms to break the link between temporary and permanent migration. In parallel, the UKBA is taking action against those entering sham marriages, those who use false sponsors as a means of entering and staying in the UK and those who otherwise abuse the asylum route to the detriment of those in need of protection. UKBA crime teams are working with other law enforcement agencies here and abroad to tackle organised immigration crime.

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The UKBA must do more to find and remove those with no right to be in the United Kingdom, it is taking action to strengthen contact management with migrants whose leave has expired and to improve the system of tracing absconders. Greater emphasis is being placed on promoting voluntary removals which has helped to increase the numbers taking up assisted voluntary return.

Anyone found living or working here illegally remains liable to be detained and removed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/text/120709w0003.htm#120710800019>

Asylum

Michael Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she estimates that all cases referred to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit will be cleared. [115960]

Reply from Damian Green: As the chief executive of the UK Border Agency reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 15 May, we intend to close the controlled archive by December 2012.

Due to the nature of individual live cases, we cannot give a date for when all of these will be cleared. Cases will be worked to the furthest possible point and if barriers remain to final conclusion, a grant of leave or removal, then the cases will continue to be actively monitored until full conclusion is possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120711/text/120711w0001.htm#1207115100047>

Asylum

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases are being dealt with by the Case Assurances and Audit Unit. [116420]

Reply from Damian Green: On 15 May 2012, Rob Whiteman reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee that as of 31 March 2012 the following cases remained with the Case Assurances and Audit Unit (CAAU):

21,000 live asylum legacy cases

80,000 asylum legacy cases in the controlled archive

21,500 migration cases in the controlled archive

The Home Affairs Select Committee will be provided with updated figures shortly.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period of time an application for asylum which is currently outstanding has taken to process. [117517]

Reply from Damian Green: Asylum applications that pre-date the creation of the electronic Case Information Database in 2001 were subsequently added to that database and assigned default application dates. It is therefore not possible to determine the age of the oldest of these cases without undertaking a manual check of each individual case file which would incur disproportionate cost.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average period of time taken to process applications made for asylum was in the last two years. [117518]

Reply from Damian Green: This information is not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols.

However, published statistics regarding asylum applications and decisions on a quarterly and annual basis are available in table 'as.01.q.' at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q1-2012/asylum1-q1-2012-tabs?view=Binary>

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Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for asylum are being processed by her Department. [117519]

Reply from Damian Green: At the end of March 2012, 11,454 applications were awaiting an initial decision or the outcome of an appeal or further review. This figure is for applications received by main applicants since April 2006.

The number of asylum applications pending is published on a quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table 'as.01.q' of the release 'Immigration Statistics, January to March 2012' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120717/text/120717w0002.htm#12071796000053>

Detention Centres

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department uses a risk-based assessment in respect of detention at immigration removal centres; and if she will publish any assessment criteria used. [115489]

Reply from Damian Green: Decisions to detain are taken on an individual basis in the light of all relevant circumstances known. The factors which should be considered and the guidance available to assist UK Border Agency officers in reaching these decisions are published in Chapter 55 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance, available at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/?view=Standard&pubID=1024555>

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will set a maximum period for detention at immigration removal centres. [115490]

Reply from Damian Green: There are no plans to set a maximum period for detention at immigration removal centres.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/text/120709w0003.htm#1207108000014>

Deportation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who had their visas revoked and were scheduled for deportation in each of the last five years have not been deported. [115515]

Reply from Damian Green: The data requested are not held in a format compatible with National Statistics protocols, or produced as part of the UK Border Agency's standard reports.

The Home Office publishes immigration statistics on a quarterly and annual basis, a copy of which can be found in the Library of the House. The latest published statistics on removals can also be found at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120709/text/120709w0003.htm#1207108000013>

Deportation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on deportations in each of the last five years. [115513]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency annual accounts for 2010-11 can be viewed at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/>

A copy has also been placed in the House Library.

These accounts include the costs of Public Expense Removals, and also of the various voluntary removal schemes which the Agency operates. The gross costs to the Agency of removals shown in the Agency's accounting records between 2006 and 2011 are detailed in Table 1; these figures include the total programme costs of the voluntary return schemes including re-integration assistance, flights and running costs. The Agency also receives funding from the EU for its removals programme, and the amounts received and expected from this source are shown in Table 2, which will offset some of the gross costs.

EU Funds received for 2009-10 and 2010-11 remain subject to audit and possible amendment.

Annex: Net costs of public expense and voluntary removals schemes

<i>Table 1: Gross removal costs 2005-10</i>	
<i>Public Expense Removals (PERs)</i>	
	<i>£ million</i>
2006-07	20.2
2007-08	22.3
2008-09	27.0
2009-10	27.5
2010-11	28.4

<i>Voluntary Removals Schemes</i>	
	<i>£ million</i>
2006-07	22.2
2007-08	21.7
2008-09	10.8
2009-10	20.4
2010-11	17.3

<i>Table 2: EU Funding for Removals 2005-10</i>	
	<i>£ million</i>
2006-07	3.2
2007-08	3.2
2008-09	6.3
2009-10	4.1
2010-11	2.7

Note: EU funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11- is subject to EU audit and possible amendment.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120711/text/120711w0001.htm#12071151000049>

Press Releases

Changes to the family migration Immigration Rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/july/15-family-mig>

Family visit visa appeals: changes come into effect on 9 July 2012

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/july/16-fam-appeal>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Changes to the Immigration Rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/july/36-rule-changes>

Applying for settlement from inside the UK

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/65-fam-set>

New targeted interviews to stop fake students

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/stopping-fake-students>

Immigration Rules change

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/parliamentary-business/written-ministerial-statement/immig-rules-change-wms/>

Asylum policy: call for fair shares and solidarity

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120709IPR48499/html/Asylum-policy-call-for-fair-shares-and-solidarity>

New Publications

Tier 4 student credibility pilot analysis of quantitative and qualitative data

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ104?view=Binary>

Benefits and Housing in the UK: A guide for refugees living with HIV

http://www.nat.org.uk/media/Files/Policy/2012/Policy_Briefings/June-2012-Benefits-and-Housing-in-the-UK-Factsheet.pdf

News

New powers aim to expel more bogus students

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/new-powers-aim-to-expel-more-bogus-students-1-2400448>

Tougher tourist visa application process 'costs UK £2.8bn'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18794416>

Bring in migrants to cut billions from deficit, says Osborne's watchdog

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bring-in-migrants-to-cut-billions-from-deficit-says-osbornes-watchdog-7939667.html>

1 in 3 student visas wrongly awarded

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article1081616.ece

Vince Cable: efforts to cut student immigration 'damaging' to UK science

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/rowena-mason/9396025/Vince-Cable-efforts-to-cut-student-immigration-damaging-to-UK-science.html>

Five million non-EU immigrants living in UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9394130/Five-million-non-EU-immigrants-living-in-UK.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Setback for migrant worker rule

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18888241>

Overseas students 'cannot leave or stay' in visa delays

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18888210>

UK Border Agency accused of 'ignoring' 50 claims of torture

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/uk-border-agency-accused-of-ignoring-50-claims-of-torture-1-2422874>

Supreme Court delivers blow to immigration rules

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9409629/Supreme-Court-delivers-blow-to-immigration-rules.html>

Ban on university recruiting foreign students

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9416973/Ban-on-university-recruiting-foreign-students.html>

Reliance under scrutiny after deportees report injuries while being restrained by guards

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jul/22/reliance-scrutiny-injuries>

What Do the British Think About Immigration?

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/robert-ford/what-do-the-british-think_b_1676534.html

Scottish Refugee Council launches exciting new partnership with the Citizens Theatre

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1788_scottish_refugee_council_launches_exciting_new_partnership_with_the_citizens_theatre

High Court ruling finds it is unlawful for UKBA to delay paying asylum support to people submitting fresh claims

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1754_we_respond_high_court_ruling_finds_it_is_unlawful_for_ukba_to_delay_paying_asylum_support_to_people_submitting_fresh_claims

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Race Relations

News

Mixed race marriage: 'my race didn't fit'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/mixed-race-marriage-my-race-didnt-fit-7946683.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Prime Minister's Questions

David Davis: On 4 September, the European Court of Human Rights is hearing the case of Miss Nadia Eweida, the lady who lost her job at British Airways for wearing a crucifix as a mark of her Christianity. The behaviour of BA in this was a disgraceful piece of political correctness, so I was surprised to see that the Government are resisting Miss Eweida's appeal. I cannot believe that the Government are supporting the suppression of religious freedom in the workplace, so what are we going to do about this sad case?

Reply from the Prime Minister: For once, I can say that I wholeheartedly agree with my right hon. Friend. I fully support the right of people to wear religious symbols at work; I think it is a vital religious freedom. If it turns out that the law has the intention as has come out in this case, we will change the law and make it clear that people can wear religious emblems at work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120711/debtext/120711-0001.htm#12071139000011>

Prisoners: Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish the information they have been gathering since September 2011 on the number and proportion relative to population of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller prisoners.[HL1386]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord McNally): Following the addition of the new Census 2011 ethnicity categories into the prison IT system, prisoners received into custody can now declare themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller. However it is unlikely that existing prisoners (those already in custody prior to the new category being introduced) will have been given the opportunity to revise their previously stated ethnicity.

Current data on the number of Gypsy or Irish Traveller prisoners are therefore likely to be an undercount of the true number of prisoners who would identify themselves as Gypsy or Irish Traveller. We will monitor the use of the new code, and publish the figures once the coverage is deemed sufficient to provide meaningful and accurate statistics.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120716w0001.htm#1207174000314>

Press Release

Equality and Human Rights Commission publishes Annual Report and Accounts

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2012/july/commission-publishes-annual-report-and-accounts/>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission Annual Report and Accounts for 2011/12

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/corporate-reporting/annual-reports/>

News

Cameron backs law on religious symbols

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/cameron-backs-law-on-religious-symbols-1-2406432>

Equality

News (continued)

Legal change on religious symbols

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/legal-change-on-religious-symbols.18131640>

David Cameron: I will change the law to allow crosses at work

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/pmqs/9392150/David-Cameron-I-will-change-the-law-to-allow-crosses-at-work.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases

Minister calls on racist footballers to face sack

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2092147>

Call for authors: European Network Against Racism European Shadow Report 2011-12

http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=30586&langue=EN

New Publication

Anti-Muslim incidents: picture across the UK

<http://faith-matters.org/component/content/article/37-general/276-anti-muslim-violence-picture-across-the-uk-from-tell-mama>

News

Probe started into 'institutional racism' faced by Roma people in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/politics/probe-started-into-institutional-racism-faced-by-roma-people-in-scotland-1-2412800>

Oldham wife Shasta Khan guilty of Jewish jihad plan

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-18882619>

City's Jewish community stands firm after 'jihad at home' terror plot

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-18909933>

Islamophobia - for Muslims, read Jews. And be shocked

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/owen-jones-islamophobia--for-muslims-read-jews-and-be-shocked-7939392.html?origin=internalSearch>

Rio Ferdinand claims 'choc ice' term is common slang, not racist

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2012/jul/15/twitter-rio-ferdinand-john-terry-ashley-cole>

Who thinks about the consequences of online racism?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jul/12/consequences-of-online-racism>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Racism is still very much with us. So why don't we recognise it?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jul/13/racism-public-discourse-power-to-define>

Who thinks about the consequences of online racism?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jul/12/consequences-of-online-racism>

Online racist abuse: we've all suffered it too

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jul/11/online-racist-abuse-writers-face>

Racism in football: putting the boot in

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2012/jul/13/racism-football-premier-league-campbell>

Met Police internal racism allegations treble

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-18844336>

Probe into city racism allegation

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/probe-into-city-racism-allegation.18158171>

What's worse than racism? Complaining about it

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/yasmin-alibhai-brown/yasmin-alibhaibrown-whats-worse-than-racism-complaining-about-it-7945387.html?origin=internalSearch>

Time to Hold the Media to Account for Islamophobia

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-nafeez-mosaddeq-ahmed/muslims-and-the-media_b_1682041.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-politics

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Question

Governance and Communities

Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Executive how much funding it has given to the Black Leadership Network in each of the last three years and which (a) person and (b) organisation is accountable for the use of this. (S4W-08344)

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: The Black Leadership Network (BLN) was established under the auspices of the Council for Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations (CEMVO) and the Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance (GARA) now known as the Coalition for Racial Equality & Rights (CRER). The Scottish Government during the last three years has provided funding to CEMVO (£0.2million in 2009/10, £0.2million in 2010-11 and £0.19 million in 2011-12) some of which was used to further develop the BLN. Although the BLN was initially funded by CEMVO it is now self financed by CRER and the responsibility for overseeing it lies with Jatin Haria, Executive Director of CRER.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-08344&ResultsPerPage=10>

Other Holyrood (continued) Press Releases

Response to referendum consultation over 26,000

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/07/referendum-consultation15072012>

New child protection website launched

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/07/child-protection16072012>

Same sex marriage

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/07/ssm17072012>

Ramadan

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/07/ramadan20072012>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Coroners

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to ensure that, in inquest procedures, the wishes of families of deceased who would, on religious grounds, choose (a) non-invasive autopsy procedures and (b) burial as soon as possible are respected. [117550]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: Less invasive post-mortem examinations are permitted under coroner legislation. The legislation also allows coroners to issue certificates to allow removal of the body from the jurisdiction to facilitate burial abroad where this is desired for religious reasons. The Charter for Coroner Services, issued by the Ministry of Justice in March 2012, states that coroners should take account of families' religious and community requirements during the inquest process where this is compatible with the coroner's statutory duties.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120717/text/120717w0002.htm#12071796000028>

Forced Marriage

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) estimated, and (2) reported, number of forced marriages in England in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009, (d) 2010, (e) 2011, and (f) to 1 June 2012. [HL1018]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): It is very difficult to estimate the scale of forced marriage in England. The very nature of this abhorrent practice means it is likely that many cases go unreported.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) captures information about contacts, requests for advice and assistance in relation to possible cases of forced marriage.

The following is a breakdown of reported cases from 2007 to 2012:

in 2007, data were not collected on the number of reported cases of forced marriage; in 2008, a total of 1,618 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU; in 2009, a total of 1,682 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU; in 2010, a total of 1,735 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU; in 2011, a total of 1,468 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU; up to 1 June 2012, a total of 611 reports relating to a possible forced marriage were received by the FMU.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) estimated, and (2) reported, number of child marriages in England in (a) 2007, (b) 2008, (c) 2009, (d) 2010, (e) 2011, and (f) to 1 June 2012.[HL1019]

Reply from Lord Henley: It is very difficult to estimate the scale of child forced marriage in England. The very nature of this abhorrent practice means it is likely that many cases go unreported.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) does not hold any data on the number of child marriages in England.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120710w0001.htm#12071066000523>

Forced Marriage

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government with which countries they collaborate to stop child marriages and forced marriage; and how.[HL1134]

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The Government are committed to tackling the practice of forced marriage and providing the best protection possible to victims.

Through our unique cross-government Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) we do more to protect and support victims than any other country in the world. Our embassies and High Commissions conduct hundreds of rescues and repatriations every year of British nationals who are facing forced marriage abroad. Last year the FMU provided advice or support in almost 1,500 cases.

The FMU has worked to increase dialogue and action on forced and early marriage internationally. The recently established International Partnership Board (IPB) on forced marriage engages with London-based embassies and High Commissions across a number of countries, including of: the United States, Canada, Germany, Australia, Austria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

The focus of the IPB is to share ideas and experiences, review forced marriage legislation around the world and build an international coalition to work towards ending this abhorrent practice.

Child marriage is an issue that cuts across all four pillars of the Department for International Development's Strategic Vision for Girls and Women, so we work closely with a range of partners on programmes relevant to raising the age of marriage.

This is both at the level of programmes in country and also through our international policy dialogue with non-governmental organisations and United Nations (UN) agencies, including: UN Women; UN Children's Fund; the UN Population Fund; and, the World Health Organisation.

We have targeted programmes to tackle child marriage in a number of countries including Bangladesh, Zambia and Ethiopia. Alongside this a number of our programmes, for example in education, family planning and broader empowerment for girls and women, will impact on the age of marriage. Projects such as delivering cash transfers to girls to keep them in school or working with religious leaders to amplify voices that speak out against child marriage are proving to be very effective ways to prevent early and forced marriage.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120716w0001.htm#1207174000300>

Forced Marriage

Baroness Uddin: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases dealt with by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit arose from the Bangladeshi

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

community in the United Kingdom in (1) 2009, (2) 2010, (3) 2011, and (4) 2012 to date. [HL1226]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley): The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) captures information about contacts, requests for advice and assistance in relation to possible cases of forced marriage.

The following is a breakdown of reported cases from 2009 to 2012 arising from the Bangladeshi community in the United Kingdom:

(1) in 2009, a total of 168 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU;(2) in 2010, a total of 179 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU;(3) in 2011, a total of 114 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU; and(4) in 2012, to date, a total of 55 reports relating to possible forced marriage were received by the FMU.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120717w0001.htm#12071786000472>

Press Releases

Forced marriage warning as summer holidays approach

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=787139282>

Prime Minister David Cameron's message for Ramadan

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/david-cameron-ramadan/>

Foreign Secretary's Ramadan message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=790710882>

Looking forward to celebrating Ramadan at the London 2012 Games

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=791204782>

News

Mutilation of girls targeted in new campaign

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1081617.ece

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Other News

Britain's first black community in Elizabethan London

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-18903391>

Call for Proposals: Poverty and Ethnicity: Social Networks

<http://tinyurl.com/buyv7zv>

Call for testimonies by/interviews with older ethnic minorities and migrants

The European Network Against Racism would like to hear testimonies from and hold interviews with older people from ethnic minority backgrounds and older migrants from different Member States. For further information contact Donata donata@enar-eu.org.

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/51531.aspx>

Police and Fire Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/45701.aspx>

Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48001.aspx>

Welfare Reform (Further Provision) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48804.aspx>

Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm83/8359/8359.pdf>

Crime and Courts Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/crimeandcourts.html>

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/humantraffickingandexploitationfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictims.html>

**** Small Charitable Donations Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/smallcharitablecontributions.html>

Public Reading Stage

<http://publicreadingstage.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Responsible officers in the new health architecture: Amendments to the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) 2010 Regulations (closing date 25 July 2012)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_133601

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Civil Justice Council and Criminal Legal Assistance Bill (closing date 27 July 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/50802.aspx>

Equality Act 2010: employer liability for harassment of employees by third parties (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/third-party-harassment/consultation-document?view=Binary>

Consultations (continued)

Equality Act 2010: repeal of two enforcement provisions (closing date 7 August 2012)
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equality-act-wider-enforcement/consultation-document?view=Binary>

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill (closing date 8 August 2012)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/52148.aspx>

Rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national researchers, students, school pupils, unremunerated trainees and volunteers in the EU (closing date 23 August 2012)
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2012/consulting_0024_en.htm

Draft Communications Data Bill (closing date 23 August 2012)
<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/joint-committees/communications-data/commsdataCfE.pdf>

Ethnic minority female unemployment (closing date 3 September 2012)
<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/parliament/appg-2/appg-inquiry.html>

**** Interpretation and Translation services and the Applied Language Solutions contract** (closing date 3 September 2012)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/justice-committee/news/interpretation-and-translation-services/>

Runnymede Equality Survey (closing date 7 September 2012)
<http://rminsight.co.uk/surveys/runnymede/>

Your rights, your future (closing date 9 September 2012)
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=EUCitizenship3&lang=en>

Integration index (closing date 10 September 2012)
<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/bham/refugeeintegration/>

Investing In and Paying for Your Water Services from 2015 (closing date 11 September 2012)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00395226.pdf>

A Scotland for Children: A Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill (closing date 25 September 2012)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396537.pdf>

**** Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill** (26 September 2012)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00394524.pdf>

Reforming Scots Criminal Law and Practice: The Carloway Report (closing date 5 October 2012)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00396483.pdf>

**** Proposed Lobbying Transparency Bill** (closing date 29 October 2012)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20120706_Lobbying_Transparency_consultation.pdf

Consultations (continued)

Here to Stay: People with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities including new migrants (no closing date given)

<http://www.snapsurveys.com/sw/surveypreview.asp?k=132127029508>

Facing Facts: EU project to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout the European Union (no closing date given)

http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page_id=158

Future rules on the entry and residence of non-EU national researchers, students, school pupils, unremunerated trainees and volunteers in the EU (no closing date given)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=Immigration2012>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

24 July 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1577_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Festival of Politics

17 – 25 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament

http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/pdf/2012_Festival_of_Politics_Programme.pdf

Scottish Irish Conversation on Sectarianism

17 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (10.00 – 11.00)

Festival of Politics discussion to exchange knowledge between community leaders, academics and policy makers. For information see

<http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/65.htm>

Singin I'm No a Billy He's a Tim

17 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (6.30 – 8.00)

Festival of Politics performance exploring play exploring bigotry and ethnic identity. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/56.htm>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection

21 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmb7pll>.

Who are 'Jock Tamson's Bairns'? – Attitudes Towards Migration in Scotland

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (10.30 – 11.30)

Festival of Politics debate Scottish about attitudes to immigration, and whether they support the claims of Scotland to be a more welcoming country. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/146.htm>

Making the Law Work for You – How Would You Improve the Justice System?

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (1.00 – 2.00)

Festival of Politics discussion about mediation and arbitration, improving our system of human rights, the benefits of legal aid and making the law 'less legal'. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/135.htm>

NGOs Against Modern-Day Slavery

24 August 2012 at the Scottish Parliament (2.30 – 3.30)

Festival of Politics discussion about the role of artists in preventing and combating human trafficking as modern-day slavery. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/148.htm>

Working with Interpreters

31 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

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. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1574_working_with_interpreters

Risk management and financial controls

20 September 2012 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.00)

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at risk management and financial controls within Scottish charities, focusing on different types of fraud, and methods to prevent and tackle fraud. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-risk-management-and-financial-controls/>

Completing the new OSCR Returns

20 September 2012 in Inverness (1.30 – 4.00)

24 September 2012 in Dundee (9.30 – 12.00)

9 October 2012 in Dumfries (9.30 – 12.00)

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (1.30 – 4.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

Oban (date to be confirmed)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to look at the ways in which charities

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

report to OSCR, and will include an introduction to OSCR Online. OSCR Online offers online reporting options for charities, giving them greater control in the submission of accounts and other information to OSCR. For information see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-completing-oscr-returns/>

Thinking about the future, including conversions to SCIO

24 September 2012 in Dundee (1.30 – 4.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to cover planning ahead within the life of a charity, and explain consent, notification, charity reorganisation and converting to the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-thinking-about-the-future/>

East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training

17 October 2012 in Nottingham

Roma Support Group training to include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families. For information see http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/roma_17_10_12.html

Becoming a charity and choosing the right legal form

6 November 2012 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.00)

8 November 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to take an in depth look at the pros and cons of registering as a charity, and explain the various legal forms available, including the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-becoming-a-charity/>

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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.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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/>

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