

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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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration Controls

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time is for sponsor licence applications to be decided. [145855]

Reply from Mark Harper: Based on the difference between application prepared date and the application despatch date in (Q4) 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2012, the average length of time taken to process a sponsor licence application was 17 calendar days.

(1) The figure quoted has been derived from management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

(2) Figure relates to sponsorship licence applications from organisations.

(3) Figure relates to applications logged in the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(4) Processing time based on average number of calendar days between application logged and despatch dates.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130305/text/130305w0003.htm#13030578000046>

Immigration

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for elderly dependent relatives from non-EEA countries to obtain leave to stay in the UK UK Border Agency have (a) received, (b) granted, (c) refused and (d) not processed since July 2012. [144651]

Reply from Mark Harper: The immigration rules governing the settlement (indefinite leave) of adult dependent relatives changed in July 2012. This route is now only accessible to applicants applying from outside the UK.

The latest published figures for July to December 2012 on applications from outside the UK, and grants issued and refusals outside the UK, of entry clearance visas providing settlement (indefinite leave) to dependants (other than children or partners, of those who were settled in the UK or British citizens), are given in the following table. Published statistics do not separately identify entry clearance visas not processed.

Entry clearance visa applications from outside the UK, and resolutions, providing settlement (indefinite leave) to dependants (other than children or partners, of those who were settled in the UK or British citizens)

Quarter	Applications	Resolved	Issued	Percentage	Of which:		Withdrawn or lapsed
					Refused	Percentage	
2012 Q3 (Jul to Sep)	650	760	402	53	345	45	13
2012 Q4 (Oct to Dec)	456	699	277	40	421	60	1

Note: Decisions (resolutions) may relate to applications made in earlier quarters, and may include decisions based on rules in place before July 2012. *Source:* Table be.0l.q, Family route: Other (for settlement), "Immigration Statistics October-December 2012".

The published statistics do not separately identify how many of these applications and decisions outside the UK on entry clearance visas providing indefinite leave to dependants (other than children or partners, of those who were settled in the UK or British citizens), relate to elderly dependent relatives.

Information on applications from outside the UK and grants issued and refusals outside the UK, for entry clearance visas by category, is published, as part of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Science website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130304/text/130304w0001.htm#13030439000033>

Immigration: Married People

Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications to sponsor a non-EEA national spouse to settle in the UK have failed to meet the minimum financial income requirement introduced in July 2012. [146811]

Reply from Mark Harper: The latest published figures for 2012 on decisions, grants and refusals for entry clearance visa applications (from outside the UK) and for extensions of stay (from inside the UK) for non-EEA partners, potentially leading to settlement (indefinite leave), are given in the following tables:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<i>Decisions on entry clearance visas from outside the UK, for non-EEA partners, providing a potential route to settlement (indefinite leave)</i>							
<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>of which</i>		<i>Withdrawn or lapsed</i>
					<i>Refused</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
2012 Q1	Family route: Partner	9,946	8,021	81	1,886	19	39
2012 Q2	Family route: Partner	10,119	7,986	79	2,079	21	54
2012 Q3	Family route: Partner	10,970	7,636	70	3,260	30	74
2012 Q4	Family route: Partner	12,624	6,800	54	5,758	46	66

<i>Decisions on extensions of stay from inside the UK, for non-EEA Partners, providing a potential route to settlement (indefinite leave)</i>							
<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Decisions</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>of which</i>		
					<i>Refused</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	
2012 Q1	Spouse (probationary period applications)	4,598	4,130	90	468	10	
2012 Q2	Spouse (probationary period applications)	3,303	3,011	91	292	9	
2012 Q3	Spouse (probationary period applications)	2,769	2,418	87	351	13	
2012 Q4	Spouse (probationary period applications)	4,534	3,731	82	803	18	

Notes: 1. Includes unmarried and civil partners. 2. Excludes decisions on partners applying for immediate settlement. 3. Refusals may relate to applications made in earlier quarters, and may include decisions based on rules in place before July 2012. 4. Data are provisional. *Source:* Tables be.OLq and ex.01.q, Immigration Statistics October to December 2012.

It is not possible to identify how many of the refusals related to failure to meet the minimum financial income requirement introduced in July 2012 without the inspection of individual cases.

Information on applications from outside and within the UK for entry clearance visas and extensions of stay by category is published as part of the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Science website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130307/text/130307w0003.htm#130307104000140>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues to the UK Border Agency on removing from the UK citizens of other EU member states who are seeking to access public services but who are not exercising their treaty rights under the Free Movement Directive; and if she will make a statement. [145580]

Reply from Mark Harper: The guidance is set out in chapter 50 of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance (EIG) manual. This is available to view on the UK Border Agency website via the following link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/detentionandremovals/chapter50-eea?view=Binary>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130304/text/130304w0001.htm#13030439000034>

Romanians and Bulgarians (Benefits)

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on what actions the Government are planning to restrict welfare to newcomers from Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January next year.

Reply from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): ... Between 1997 and 2010, net migration to the UK was some 2.2 million people—larger than the city of Birmingham. Interestingly, from 2004 to 2010, 1.1 million European economic area nationals registered to work in the UK. After the prediction of what was likely to happen, the scope of the problem is far greater than anything the Labour party wanted to tell the public. Most of all, I congratulate my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and her team in the coalition for having begun the process of reducing net migration to Britain for the first time in a long time.

... people must pass the habitual residence test, introduced by the previous Government, before being entitled to claim income-related benefits. The current system was put in place in 2004 and has basically two elements—a legal right to reside and an assessment of factual evidence of habitual residence. As we know, EU citizens have the right to live in another member state as long as they are a qualified person, which basically means a worker, self-employed person, jobseeker, self-sufficient person or student. Tax credits have, I am afraid, been open to abuse outside that system from day one because the rules allow anybody from within the European economic area to claim self-employed status and receive full entitlement immediately. The Government are trying to wrestle with that problem, and I will return to it.

We are currently facing—not for the first time—a legal challenge from the European Commission because our habitual residence test states that people must prove they live in the UK habitually before they get access to benefits. It seems strange to me that anyone should be surprised that a habitual residence test requires that a person should live in the UK habitually, but we sometimes live in that George Orwellian political language world, which the Commission seems to foster with great alacrity.

... under the EU co-ordination rules, benefits under the main categories of social security are exportable—that is, payable elsewhere in the European economic area. So that we clear up the confusion, let me say that that includes, notably, child benefit, for example, and has for a while. We therefore pay child benefit to children who live in other EU states when their parents are working here. That causes a lot of concern, and quite legitimately so. When both parents work but in different countries, the EU rules apparently determine who has primary

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

responsibility for paying, but any difference in entitlement is netted off. So, for example, if someone comes from Poland and works over here, the child support that we pay here is netted out against what they might have received had they been paid in Poland, and the net amount is therefore paid across. That is the existing rule. The UK system is obviously more generous, and that is why it pays people in a sense to be here, getting those benefits.

I recognise there are some real issues here. ... The Government are concerned that, although some protections are in place, they are not enough. ...

The reality is that we are trying, for example, to figure out the rules that allow us to prevent individuals from staying in the UK for only a short time before claiming benefits—a rule that existed under the last Government. We are looking at the tests about accommodation and the length of time people spend here. We want to look at things such as the leasing arrangements they have for their housing and over what length of time, and even at challenging the narrow and short-term definition of “habitual” used by the European Court of Justice. In other words, we are trying to lock people out from coming here solely for the purpose of claiming benefits. ...

To continue reading this lengthy answer see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130305/debtext/130305-0001.htm#13030539000007>

Higher Education: Foreign Students

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what restrictions apply to non-European Union students who have graduated from British universities staying in the United Kingdom if they obtain employment or seek post-graduate opportunities; and whether they take into account the number of United Kingdom nationals who graduate from British universities who are seeking to enter the labour market in assessing the appropriateness of those restrictions.[HL5769]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): In April 2012, the Government closed the tier 1 (Post-Study Work) route, which allowed all international graduates to remain in the UK labour market for two years after graduation and to have unrestricted access to the labour market during that period. In closing this route, the Government had regard to the state of the labour market for graduates, both UK and international. Non-EEA graduates may however remain in the UK on completion of their studies, in order to work, in one of the following ways:

those with an offer of an approved graduate-level job from an employer licensed by the UK Border Agency, paying at least £20,000, can be sponsored by the employer for leave to remain in tier 2 of the points-based system. These jobs are not subject to the annual limit of 20,700 on tier 2 visas and the employer does not have to carry out a resident labour market test; the graduate entrepreneur route allows higher education institutions to sponsor students to remain in the UK to pursue their entrepreneurial activities for up to two years. There is a limit of 1,000 places on the scheme. From April this year there will be a further 1,000 places specifically for MBA graduates who are sponsored to stay on after their studies to pursue business activities; those wishing to undertake a temporary period of professional training to supplement their qualification (such as pharmacy), before pursuing a career overseas, can do so under defined schemes in tier 5 of the points-based system. Tier 5 also offers defined schemes for internships and work experience; or from April this year, international students successfully completing a PhD at a UK higher education institution will be able to stay in the UK for one year to look for skilled work or set up as an entrepreneur.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130304w0001.htm#1303047000258>

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Schools: Immigration

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the potential effect of inward migration from Romania and Bulgaria on the number of primary school pupils from 2014. [144762]

Reply from David Laws: No separate estimate has been made of the effect of immigration from Romania and Bulgaria on the number of primary school pupils in England. The Department's national pupil projections are based on population projections from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), which take into account net migration from European Union accession countries including Romania and Bulgaria.

Tobias Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education under what responsibility local authorities are placed to confirm that parents applying for school places for their children who are immigrants from (a) other EU member states and (b) other countries are present in the UK lawfully. [145082]

Reply from David Laws: Local authorities are responsible for co-ordinating the school admission arrangements for all state funded schools within their area. Parents are asked by local authorities to complete a common application form (CAF), which enables them to express a preference for a place at any state funded school. The CAF can seek personal details such as name, address and the name, address and date of birth of the child. Where a local authority has concerns about an individual's access to public benefits, including education, they may refer the matter to the UK Border Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130304/text/130304w0003.htm#1303054000025>

Schools: Immigration

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account his Department has taken of the Department for Communities and Local Government's estimates of inward migration from Romania and Bulgaria in the School Capacity Census. [144761]

Reply from David Laws: The School Capacity Collection is an annual survey through which local authorities provide information on school places and pupil forecasts to the Department for Education. The forecasts that local authorities provide to the Department factor in a range of local demographic considerations, including inward migration, and will be informed by data from ONS.

The 2012 School Capacity Collection data is available on the DFE website.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/allstatistics/a00219162/school-capacity-2011-12>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130305/text/130305w0004.htm#1303062000029>

Deportation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on returning (a) illegal migrants by nationality and (b) victims of trafficking to countries (i) within the EU and (ii) outside the EU in each of the last five years; and how many people were returned in each such category in each such year. [144708]

Reply from Mark Harper: The costs of removing illegal migrants and victims of trafficking are included within an aggregate cost of removing all foreign nationals from the United Kingdom. A detailed costing of the specified categories could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Volume information on all enforced removals by nationalities is published on the Home Office website link at:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q3-2012/removals3-q3-2012-tabs?view=Binary>

The UK Border Agency began recording information on victims of trafficking in a reportable format on 1 April 2009. From 1 April 2009 to 30 September 2012, a total of five confirmed victims of trafficking have been removed or voluntarily departed from the UK. All five individuals were non-EU nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130305/text/130305w0003.htm#13030578000043>

Press Releases

New Tier 4 guidance published

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/77-t4-guidance>

Important changes to the restricted certificates of sponsorship (RCoS) application process from 6 March 2013

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/march/07-rcos>

Scotland taking steps to tackle human trafficking

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/scottish-news/press-releases-2013/scotland-taking-steps-to-tackle-human-trafficking/>

New Publications

Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland: Follow on Report

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Human_Trafficking_in_Scotland/_ht_follow_on_final_web.pdf

How free is free movement? Dynamics and drivers of mobility within the European Union

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPIEurope-FreeMovement-Drivers.pdf>

News

Holyrood does not share UK Government's migrant influx fears

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/holyrood-does-not-share-uk-governments-migrant-influx-fears.20408351>

Cabinet to examine ways of deterring Bulgarian and Romanian immigrants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/04/cabinet-deterring-bulgarian-romanian-immigrants>

Human trafficking 'still taking place'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/human-trafficking-still-taking-place.20434554>

Human trafficking 'still happening' in Scotland, according to human rights report

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/human-trafficking-still-happening-scotland-1748192>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Government failing to bring Britain in line with European rules on human trafficking, say charities

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-failing-to-bring-britain-in-line-with-european-rules-on-human-trafficking-say-charities-8528099.html>

There's a fresh way on immigration – and it has the public's support

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/mar/10/fresh-way-immigration-public-support>

Eric Pickles orders ban on council translations for migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9919639/Eric-Pickles-orders-ban-on-council-translations-for-migrants.html>

Call to end abuse of student visitor visa

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/call-to-end-abuse-of-student-visitor-visa.20434883>

Ed Miliband: It is 'not prejudiced' to worry about immigration

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9920405/Ed-Miliband-It-is-not-prejudiced-to-worry-about-immigration.html>

Yvette Cooper: End student visitor visa loopholes

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21693835>

Labour outlines measures to restrict benefits for new EU arrivals in UK

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/mar/07/labour-measures-restrict-benefits-arrivals>

Labour immigration policy will focus on short-term student visitor visas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/07/labour-immigration-short-term-student-visas>

Curb migrant benefits, says Labour

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/curb-migrant-benefits-says-labour-1-2826092>

Labour sets out plans for tough controls on migrants' benefits

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3707611.ece>

Make it harder for migrants to receive Jobseekers Allowance, says Labour's Yvette Cooper

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/make-it-harder-for-migrants-to-receive-jobseekers-allowance-says-labours-yvette-cooper-8524542.html>

Yvette Cooper denies shift to the right over tougher immigration stance

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/yvette-cooper-denies-shift-to-the-right-over-tougher-immigration-stance-8523470.html>

Prof says his '13,000 EU migrants' report 'misinterpreted'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-21682810>

Benefits could become 'contributory' to deter immigrants from EU

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9909062/Benefits-could-become-contributory-to-deter-immigrants-from-EU.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

EU accuses UK of 'inventing' migrant benefit crisis

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/9916159/EU-commission-accuses-UK-of-inventing-non-problem-of-migrant-benefit-crisis.html>

Immigration: you won't win people over with facts

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/mar/07/immigration-facts-and-emotive-stories>

Why aren't sexual abuse reforms being applied to asylum seekers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/mar/08/sexual-abuse-asylum-seekers>

Jackie Kay, using poetry to help female asylum seekers

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/jackie-kay-using-poetry-to-help-female-asylum-seekers-1-2828428>

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Race Relations

Westminster Early Day Motion

George Galloway (1149) Bradford's Muslim Community and its last remaining synagogue – That this House congratulates Zulfikar Karim, the General Secretary of the Bradford Council of Mosques, the Bradford Council of Mosques Management Committee and the members of the Bradford Muslim community for their extraordinary ecumenical gesture in raising a very large sum of money to repair the roof of Bradford's last remaining synagogue, thereby enabling members of the Jewish community to continue to worship there; and believes that this generous gesture shows the true spirit of Islam towards other People of the Book.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/1149>

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Equality

New Publication

Equality Act 2010: Banning Age Discrimination In Services: An overview for service providers and customers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85004/age-discrimination-ban.pdf

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (1133) Tackling racism and anti-semitism in sport – That this House condemns all forms of racism and anti-Semitism in sport; is disturbed by the recent racial

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Early Day Motion (continued)

discrimination and abuse highlighted in European football; calls for the adoption of all necessary measures to eliminate racism and anti-Semitism and to promote equal opportunities within sport; believes that more needs to be done to raise the awareness of those in sports and football management to engage black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in the UK at both the professional level and grass roots game to empower BME players, managers, coaches, referees and staff to set the agenda on race and diversity issues and to work collectively with the authorities to do so; and further believes that the landscape within British and European sport, especially football must change to a position of zero tolerance of racism.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/1133>

Press Releases

Freedom of religion: UN rights expert reports on the plight of religious minorities in the world

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>

Racism(s) in Europe: the end of inhibition

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2013-03-07%20symposium%20publication%20new.pdf>

New Publications

Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session22/AHR_C2251_English.pdf

Recycling Hatred: Racism(s) in Europe Today

http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/SymposiumReport_LR%20final.pdf

News

Muslim helpline reveals majority of faith attacks on women

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/mar/09/muslim-helpline-faith-attacks-women>

Caste discrimination should be outlawed, say Lords

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/mar/05/caste-discrimination-outlawed-lords>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tests the Food Standards Agency is conducting to ensure that food in the public sector food supply chain labelled as halal does not contain pork DNA. [142097]

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from David Heath: It is the responsibility of all food businesses to ensure that the food they sell is what it says it is and that consumers are not misled. DEFRA's food authenticity programme develops and validates methods to detect the presence of pork in foods. These methodologies are made available as standard operating procedures to support testing by public analysts and industry. The Food Standards Agency delegates responsibility to local authorities for enforcing food safety legislation in food premises, covering the food supply chain from food manufacturing, processing, packing, distribution and storage through to catering and retail, including in the public sector.

There are no specific regulations governing the sale and labelling of halal or kosher meat. However, if meat is labelled as such, this must not mislead the consumer. Certification is provided by private organisations.

The Government's unit for engaging faith communities at DCLG will be hosting discussions between DEFRA, the Food Standards Agency and representatives of kosher and halal organisations this month. These discussions will cover how the Government is responding to the recently reported contamination of meat products through its testing programme and the approaches being used to detect contamination.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130304/text/130304w0002.htm#13030442000022>

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the statistical returns for 2010-12 for school attendance, attainment and retention of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.[HL5572]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): Information showing pupil absence by ethnic group and attainment information for Gypsy-Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils is shown in the tables below.

Pupil absence data for the academic year 2011-12 will be published on 19 March at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/>.

Information on the retention of Gypsy-Roma and Traveller of Irish Heritage pupils of compulsory school age is not currently available. Such information is, however, being produced in response to a recent request from the Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers and will be placed in the House Libraries when complete.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130305w0001.htm#13030560001296>

Press Release

Young people most at risk of being forced into marriage

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-most-at-risk-of-being-forced-into-marriage>

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Other News

Sikh temples feel strain of helping the homeless

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-21711980>

Diverse hijab wearers photographed by artist in London

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-21724893>

Donors still lack confidence in digital giving, survey finds

http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_daily_bulletin/article/1173841/donors-lack-confidence-digital-giving-survey-finds/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorDaily

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Post-16 Education Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/56717.aspx>

Education and Culture Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7779&mode=pdf>

**** Victims and Witnesses Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Subordinate Legislation Committee: Stage 1 consideration

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7780&mode=pdf>

Bills in Progress 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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1370503a.875-877.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0137/amend/psc1370603a.897-900.html>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130304-0001.htm#13030411000732>

and

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130306-0001.htm#13030662000808>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130306-0003.htm#130306102000175>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0083/amend/ml083-iii.htm>

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

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill (closing date 20 March 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00410328.pdf>

National Action Plan for Human Rights (closing date 29 March 2013)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/actionplan/participatesnap>

All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into electoral conduct in the UK

(closing date 29 March 2013)

<http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Call-For-Papers.pdf>

Victims and Witnesses Bill (closing date 9 April 2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/59875.aspx>

Asylum (closing date 15 April 2013)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/asylum/>

Making Justice Work - Courts Reform Bill (closing date 24 May 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/02/5302/downloads>

Tackling Racism Through Youth Work (no closing date given)

<http://www.crer.org.uk/survey-for-youth-workers>

Our Communities, Your Duties (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KN9FT6N>

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Job Opportunities

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

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**** this week!**

St Patrick's Festival

5 – 17 March 2013 in Glasgow

Festival to promote and celebrate the rich Irish cultural heritage of Glasgow and Scotland. For information see http://www.glasgowstpatriksfestival.co.uk/#!/whats_on/c66t.

**** this week!**

Beyond 2011

11 March 2013 in Edinburgh (choice of 10.00 – 12.00 and 2.00 – 4.00)

National Records of Scotland events to look at alternative options to the traditional census. For information see <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011/background/index.html> and to book see <http://beyond2011.eventbrite.co.uk> or contact Gemma Jackson 0131 314 4299 / Beyond2011@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

More information about Beyond 2011 is available on the Knowledge Hub site <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/web/scottishbeyond2011programmebeyond2011scotland/welcome>

**** this week!**

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

13 March 2013 (10.30 – 3.00)

BEMIS and Cemvo seminar on using the Public Sector Equality Duties to influence better equality practice and outcomes. For information contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / Fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk or Graham O'Neill 0141 548 8047 / graham.oneill@bemis.org.uk or see http://bemis.org.uk/event_calendar.html or

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

14 March 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

30 April 2013 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://tinyurl.com/burro73> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.

Human Rights and Scotland's Constitutional Future: Where we are now? Human Rights and the Independence Debate

18 March 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.30 – 3.45)

Seminar to discuss how the independence debate may influence human rights protections; whether it will provide opportunities to further promote and protect, or threaten human rights, or whether it is an irrelevance. For information see <http://scffevent.eventbrite.com> or contact aw.events@ed.ac.uk.

Race Equality in Scotland: The Next 10 Years

21 March 2013 in Glasgow (4.00 – 7.00)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights symposium to discuss the landscape of race equality in Scotland today, and what it may look like in 10 years' time. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/c7aw8ao>.

Progressing Together?

28 March 2013 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.45)

CEMVO conference to explore the role of Community Empowerment in Mainstreaming of Race and Equalities across the Public Sector. For information contact Fiaz Khan 0141 248 4830 / fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/d2eyumh>.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

28 March 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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/bf86cuy>.

UKBA asylum support

8 May 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/9l2b3te>.

The housing journey from seeking asylum to settling in Scotland

30 May 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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/c9wuzp9>.

Working with interpreters

30 May 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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://tinyurl.com/c8k983b>.

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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

Useful Links (continued)

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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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