

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 in recess until 3 August 2014 and the House of Commons until 1 September. The House of Lords will be in recess from 30 July to 13 October 2014. During the summer MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 4 and 18 August, and 1 September.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Young Asylum Seekers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140715/halltext/140715h0002.htm#14071566000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

British Nationality: Assessments

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department makes reasonable adjustments to require the needs of individuals with learning difficulties who want to apply for citizenship but are unable to pass the Life in the UK test. [203669]

Reply from Karen Bradley: There is discretion within the British Nationality Act 1981 to waive the knowledge of language and life in the UK requirement for a naturalisation application if, because of a person's age, physical or mental condition, it would be unreasonable to expect them to meet it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/text/140708w0002.htm#1407093000013>

Migration (EU Accessions)

Stephen Phillips: What representations she has received on the potential effect on UK migration figures of further EU accessions. [904656]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): Representations about EU migration often focus on the large inflows from existing member states since 2004, and we have been clear that, unlike the previous Government, we will always impose the toughest possible transitional controls on free movement from new member states.

Stephen Phillips: I am grateful for that answer. The simple fact of the matter, as my hon. Friend knows, is that the last Government totally underestimated both the number of migrants from newly entered countries who have made their way to the United Kingdom and the impact of that on the tolerance of ordinary, hard-working British people when it comes to immigration. Does the Minister agree with me—if so, she can tell us—that if further countries join the EU we must put in place measures that slow access to labour markets unless and until we can be sure that the vast migrations of the past simply cannot happen again?

Reply from Karen Bradley: My hon. and learned Friend puts it more succinctly than anybody could, and my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have been absolutely clear that there will be new arrangements for future accessions to slow access to labour markets until we can be sure that they will not lead to mass migration.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140707/debtext/140707-0001.htm#1407072800005>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Shaun Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of the minimum income threshold requirement on pensioners who wish to sponsor their partner's visa to settle in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [203685]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The minimum income threshold for sponsoring a partner under the family Immigration Rules aims to prevent burdens on the taxpayer and promote integration. It is appropriate that the requirement to meet the income threshold should not be affected by the age of the sponsor. The income threshold rules make provision for the counting of a wide range of both employment and non-employment income, including pensions, and of cash savings. They also exempt the applicant from the income threshold requirement where the sponsor is in receipt of a specified disability-related benefit or carer's allowance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/text/140708w0002.htm#1407093000014>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Married People

Roger Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of spouse visa applications have taken more than one year to process in each of the last five years. [203010]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The management information (which is subject to change) in the table relates to spouse and civil partner visa applications processed overseas (issued, refused, lapsed or withdrawn) relating to non-EEA nationals seeking to join or accompany a spouse or civil partner who is settled in, or being admitted for settlement to, the UK. The percentages are rounded to 2 decimal points, and relate to applications that took more than one year to process.

	<i>Percentage</i>
2009	0.00
2010	0.10
2011	0.04
2012	0.05
2013	0.18

Percentage of spouse and civil partner visa applications processed overseas from non-EEA nationals seeking to join or accompany a spouse or civil partner who is settled in, or being admitted for settlement to, the UK where the application took more than one year to process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000020>

Entry Clearances: English Language

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to inform people whose entry clearance applications are on hold because of investigation into their Test of English for International Communication qualifications about (a) the fact that this is the case and (b) any action they can take to continue their entry clearance applications. [203778]

Reply from James Brokenshire: All applications made by those in the UK using an Educational Testing Service (ETS) certificate have been placed on hold since February. Overseas visa applicants seeking entry clearance who are reliant on an ETS test certificate are not on hold but subject to interview by UK Visa and Immigration staff. In addition, information was placed on GOV.UK in April and has been updated since. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000019>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of student visa applicants who illegally gained entry to the UK as a result of fraudulent language testing in the last 10 years; and how many of these applicants have now been removed from the UK. [203628]

Reply from James Brokenshire: As I stated in my oral statement to Parliament on 24 June, analysis from the American arm of Educational Testing Service (ETS) for a number of their UK test centres has identified more than 29,000 invalid results and more than 19,000 questionable results. The analyses from other ETS test centres in the UK are still to be received and it is, therefore, likely that the true totals will be higher.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

These people took tests in the UK and had therefore previously entered the UK. As I stated, a significant proportion of students who have been caught cheating came to this country through a student visa system created before this Government reformed the English requirements in 2011.

Significant numbers of these people will have used these certificates in support of applications to temporarily extend their stay in the UK for study, work or other purposes. As I indicated, the House will be updated periodically on numbers relating to this matter.

Margaret Hodge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the costs of identifying and removing student visa applicants who entered the country illegally as a result of fraudulent language testing. [203631]

Reply from James Brokenshire: Analysis by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) is ongoing and it is not possible to provide further data, including costs data, at present. As I stated to the House on 24 June, the Home Office will provide regular updates on progress with work to remove these students and on further information we receive from ETS.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000021>

Immigration: Poland

Lord Patten: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution made by Polish immigrants to the United Kingdom economy and society since 2010.[HL788]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Viscount Younger of Leckie): The 2011 census found that there were 579,121 Polish nationals resident in the UK at that time of polling. There is no data available on the exact contribution of Polish immigrants to UK GDP since 2010 - it is extremely complex to isolate the contribution of just one group of people to GDP, given the wide variety of economic activity that they will be involved in.

However, many economists believe that Polish migrants have had a positive impact on the UK economy since 2004 as they tend to be of working age when they arrive and contribute more to the economy through taxes and consumption than they take out via public services.

By broad industry definitions, Polish nationals work across all industries but are most often found in Manufacturing and Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants. By standard occupation definitions, Polish nationals are found in all occupational areas but are most often in skilled trades, process, plant and machine operative occupations and elementary occupations.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found that the primary driver for determining an individual's fiscal contribution is whether they are in employment. The latest Labour Force survey data for January to March 2014 states that the unemployment rate amongst Polish nationals was 6.2%, lower than the UK average of 6.6%.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140714w0001.htm#14071425000371>

Asylum: Gender Recognition

Baroness Thornton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have conducted a review of the effectiveness of the UK Border Agency's training manual "Gender Identity Issues in the Asylum Claim" which is primarily used to educate UK Border Agency case officers in trans-related issues and in evaluating testimonies. [HL374]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The document referred to is guidance to asylum decision makers rather than a training manual. The guidance was last reviewed and revised in June 2011.

Separately, training for new asylum caseworkers is provided through the Foundation Training Programme, which has been developed in consultation with stakeholders including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and A:gender, the cross-civil service staff support network for transgender staff.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140708w0001.htm#14070884000478>

Asylum: Finance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in receipt of section 95 support are (a) single adults aged between 18 and 24, (b) single adults aged over 25, (c) couples, (d) single lone parents, (e) aged 16 or 17, (f) children under 16 and (g) children under five. [203354]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Office data on section 95 claimants is aligned to the specific payment categories. The categories referred to in the question were changed in October 2009.

The Home Office data on section 95 claimants is aligned to the specific payment categories. The categories referred to in the question were changed in October 2009.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Total number</i>
Child aged 16 or 17	333
Couple	5,638
Lone Parent aged 18 or over	3,256
Person aged 18 or over	7,023
Under 5	5,526
Children aged 5 to 15	4,667
<i>Note: 5,638 is the number of persons categorised as couples not the number of couples (2,819).</i>	

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average an asylum seeker stays on Section 95 support. [203355]

Reply from Karen Bradley: We do not hold data on the amount of time people stay on section 95 support in a format that is compatible with National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/text/140708w001.htm#1407093000010>

Asylum

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refugees have been recognised under each eligibility criterion in each of the last five years. [203051]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Office is unable to provide information with regards to eligibility criterion; this information is not readily accessible.

The following data refers to asylum claims lodged in the UK. These figures refer to main applicants and therefore do not include dependents.

	<i>Total grants</i>	<i>Grants of asylum</i>	<i>Grants of HP</i>	<i>Grants of DL</i>	<i>Other grants</i>	<i>Appeals allowed</i>	<i>Total</i>
2009	6,742	4,188	94	2,460	-	3,712	10,454
2010	5,195	3,488	91	1,616	-	4,029	9,224

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2011	5,649	4,312	81	1,256	-	2,779	8,428
2012	6,059	5,135	88	751	85	2,208	8,267
2013	6,542	5,734	53	540	215	2,079	8,621

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost to the public purse of (a) officials' time and (b) legal fees was of defending Refugee Action vs the Home Department, case number CO/8523/2013. [203417]

Reply from Karen Bradley: Information relating to officials' time is not available because the time spent on individual cases is not broken down or recorded. Legal costs to date are £109,076.74.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/text/140708w0001.htm#1407093000009>

Asylum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, Inspection of the UK Border Agency's handling of legacy asylum and migration cases, published in November 2012, what steps have been taken in response to recommendation 1 of that report. [202745]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Older Live Cases Unit routinely and regularly matches asylum and migration legacy cases against the Police National Computer (PNC) and Warnings Index (WI) records, until the point at which cases are finally concluded. The checks are undertaken on a rolling three monthly basis. Results are recorded on a bespoke database which informs the decision-making process within the Older Live Cases Unit.

Compliance with the recommendation was acknowledged by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration in his report, An investigation into the progress made on legacy asylum and migration cases January-March 2013, published in June 2013, where he stated, "security checks had been completed in each of the cases we sampled (144), indicating that the agency had implemented our earlier recommendation to routinely and regularly match legacy cases against the PNC and WI until finally concluded."

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140707/text/140707w0003.htm#14070761000048>

Asylum: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, Inspection into the Handling of Asylum Applications made by Unaccompanied Children, published in October 2013, what steps have been taken in response to recommendations 1, 3, 4 and 8 of that report. [202744]

Reply from James Brokenshire: In response to recommendation 1, a clear and consistent approach has been adopted. A pilot was run shortly after the inspection that led to the adoption of a new screening process for unaccompanied children; this has led to increased consistency between the Home Office and local authorities. All initial screenings take place within five days of initial claim. Local authorities are clearly responsible for facilitating the access to legal advice and responsible adults prior to the screening interview.

In response to recommendation 3, this guidance and policy has been reinforced locally. The Asylum Casework Directorate has implemented new structures that offer better technical support for promoting and monitoring family tracing. This guidance has been reinforced locally in all teams through the creation of specialised family and minors teams in each regional location. Work is ongoing

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with the Foreign Office on new family tracing arrangements for volume UASC nationalities (Albanian and Afghan) that should help to expedite the tracing process in these countries. The practicality of specialised teams will be reviewed once all decision units are fully staffed.

In response to recommendation 4, the move to a single national directorate has led to greater consistency and control of asylum case work. This has helped to address the consistency of operations and outcomes in each of the seven casework locations. Customer service standards have been reviewed with the expectation that straightforward claims can expect to receive their decision within six months. Unaccompanied children should receive their decisions quicker than that.

In response to recommendation 8, as part of the ongoing continuous improvement programme decision letters have been reviewed and changed. Templates are now clearer, more concise and customer friendly. This new approach to producing more concise grant letters and minutes has been implemented while a pilot regarding refusal letters is under way.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140707/text/140707w0003.htm#14070761000049>

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child asylum applicants have been refused financial and other support by social services departments because their credibility has been challenged, in the last year for which figures are available.[HL845]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): Local authorities have a duty to provide support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children, as they would to any other looked after child. Where the age of a person is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the person is a child, that person is presumed to be a child in order to receive immediate access to assistance, support and protection. Local authorities may only conduct an age assessment where there is significant reason to doubt that the claimant is a child. This assessment must adhere to standards established within case law.

The Government does not hold any data on numbers of child asylum applicants refused support by local authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140714w0001.htm#14071425000343>

Asylum: Young People

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to issue guidance to social services departments on the special needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, in particular in respect of post-traumatic stress and arrested personal development.[HL843]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): New statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children is due to be published shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140714w0001.htm#14071425000344>

Asylum: Deportation

Philip Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been returned from the UK to the last safe country they left under the Dublin II Regulation in each calendar year since May 2010. [203740]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Dublin Regulation is helpful in ensuring that

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asylum seekers who are the responsibility of another participating member state can be transferred from the UK to that member state.

The information requested is shown in the following table. To note, the data provided is for the entirety of 2010, rather than from May 2010 onwards.

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

	<i>People transferred</i>
2010	1,162
2011	954
2012	756
2013	757

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000011>

Illegal Immigration

Andrew Selous: What steps she is taking to reduce illegal immigration. [904658]

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire):

In every year of this Government, more illegal migrants have left the UK than in any year under the last Government. The Immigration Act 2014 is the latest step in this Government's reforms, ensuring that there is a tough response to those who abuse the system or flout the law.

Andrew Selous: When immigrants are told that they have no legal basis on which to stay in the United Kingdom and should make arrangements to leave, how long is it before the Home Office takes steps to ensure that they do, and what do those measures involve?

Reply from James Brokenshire: As my hon. Friend will know, we have established immigration enforcement and special command in the Home Office to focus rigorously on ensuring that such people are removed. However, as the Immigration Act makes clear, it is also necessary to create a system that makes it that much tougher for those people to gain access to benefits, and ensures that they are supported so that they are able to leave. That is a focus that the Government will continue to maintain.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140707/debtext/140707-0001.htm#14070728000007>

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Philip Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been sent back from the UK to their country of origin in each calendar year since May 2010. [203741]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The following table provides the total number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK to their country of origin in each year since 2010. The information provided is a subset of the total number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK as others may be removed or depart voluntarily to a country that is different to their country of origin.

<i>Number of persons removals or voluntary departed from the UK to their country of origin, 2010 to 2013, 2</i>			
	<i>Total enforced removals</i>	<i>Total non-asylum refused entry at port and subsequently departed</i>	<i>Total voluntary departures</i>
January to April 2010	4,098	2,857	7,718

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

May to December 2010	8,691	5,139	14,049
Total 2010	12,789	7,996	21,767
2011	12,997	6,250	20,622
2012 ³	13,096	5,760	22,272
2013 ³	11,577	6,252	28,130

¹ Destination as recorded on source database; all nationals returned to their country of origin. ² Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. ³ Provisional figures.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are readily available in the latest release, "Immigration Statistics: January to March 2014", from the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/text/140708w0002.htm#1407093000016>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the current number of female officers in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre; [203016]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that women in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre on suicide watch are only supervised by female officers; [203017]

(3) if she will take steps to ensure that women detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre can obtain feminine hygiene products without contact with male guards. [203018]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Office and its service providers comply with all relevant employment legislation. The service provider for Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre, Serco, is required under their contract to employ sufficient female officers to enable appropriate searching and security arrangements for female detainees. Yarl's Wood IRC has 52% male detainee custody officers and 48% female.

Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) is the system used for monitoring individuals considered to be at risk of self harm and operates within the broader context of decency, safety, and the concept of a healthy centre.

ACDT requires centre managers to appoint trained assessors and named case managers in order to provide individualised care to detainees based on their particular needs. A female assessor or case manager should be appointed where it is appropriate but that is not a requirement.

Feminine hygiene items are freely available to residents. Access to these is not monitored by staff.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0004.htm#14071452000040>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appropriateness of the current number of female officers employed by Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.[HL769]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to ensure that women in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre who are on suicide watch are only supervised by female officers; and if so, what steps are being taken.[HL770]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office and its service providers comply with all relevant employment legislation. The service provider for Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre (IRC), Serco, is required under their contract to employ sufficient female officers to enable appropriate searching and security arrangements for female detainees.

Yarl's Wood IRC has 52% male detainee custody officers (DCOs) and 48% female DCOs. A new recruitment drive is underway, with a review of how flexible and family friendly hours might be enhanced to attract more women recruits as well as devising recruitment campaigns that target female audiences.

Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) is the system used for monitoring individuals considered to be at risk of self harm and is operated across the detention estate.

ACDT is a care planning system whereby staff from all areas work together to create a safe and caring environment and provide individual care to detainees.

All incidents of self harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Staff at all centres are trained to identify those at risk of self harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. Notices in various languages are displayed in IRCs setting out that, where there is a concern about a fellow detainee, this should be brought to the attention of a member of staff. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the Prevention of Self-Harm ACDT requires centre managers to appoint trained assessors and named case managers to provide individualised care to detainees based on their particular needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140709w0001.htm#14070962000339>

Immigrants: Detainees

Andy Sawford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Immigration Removal Centre detainees have (a) escaped from detention, (b) escaped while being escorted and (c) attempted to escape each IRC in the last four years; and how many such people are still at large. [202821]

Reply from Karen Bradley: Escapes from immigration removal centres and while under escort are a subset of published statistics. The following table shows absconds for the financial years 2010-11 to 2013-14.

Information on attempted escapes is not held centrally and could be provided only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

11 of those individuals recorded as escaped 2010-11 to 2013-14 have not been located.

The police are informed immediately when a detainee has escaped and the individual's details are recorded on the Police National Computer should the individual be apprehended at a later date.

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<i>People leaving detention by place of last detention, absconded 2010-11 to 2013-14 (financial year)^{1, 2}</i>	
	<i>Absconded (number)</i>
<i>2010-11</i>	
Absconded from centre	5
Absconded from escorts	3
Total	8
<i>2011-12</i>	
Absconded from centre	3
Absconded from escorts	3
Total	6
<i>2012-13</i>	
Absconded from centre	4
Absconded from escorts	1
Total	5
<i>2013-14</i>	
Absconded from centre	0
Absconded from escorts	0
Total	0

¹ Data from 2011-12 onwards are provisional. ² Total detainees are those detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers and exclude those in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

Andy Sawford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times an escaped person has been categorised as a high harm person and the senior management team believe there is a high risk of reputational damage to the Home Office as set out in the Home Office Guidance on Escaped Detainees at immigration removal centres in the last four years. [202824]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Office does not routinely categorise immigration detainees against a scale of harm. They are instead subject to individual risk assessment linked to their suitability for placement in an immigration removal centre (IRC) which is based on a number of different factors. Where an escape or attempted escape from an IRC takes place, Criminal and Financial Investigation (CFI) immigration specialist teams will assist in the investigation where the individual is assessed to be a “high harm” person, or where the senior management team believe there is a high risk of reputational damage to the Home Office.

In the last four years the CFI team has conducted two investigations relating to escapes of individuals from escort who were assessed to fit the investigation criteria. There have not been any cases of escapes from an IRC which have warranted the involvement of the CFI.

This data is management information and does not form part of published statistics and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000029>

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Detention Centres

Andy Sawford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) red incidents and (b) amber incidents have occurred at each Immigration Removal Centre in each of the last four years. [202822]

Reply from Karen Bradley: Incidents in the detention estate are reported in accordance with Detention Services Order (DSO) 12/2008. Incidents are classified according to their seriousness as red, amber or green.

Examples of the types of red or amber incidents are given in the DSO. Red incidents are generally those relating to serious disturbances and/or fires within a centre. Amber incidents may be those involving threats to the centre, external demonstrations, or co-ordinated food or fluid refusal.

This data has been collected by different business areas in the Home Office over the data period requested and has not been collated centrally.

Management information is available only for the period 1 July 2013 to 9 March 2014 in the following table and is in line with the data period for published statistics. This data is management information collected and collated from Immigration Removal Centre suppliers. This information does not form part of published statistics and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is provisional and subject to change.

<i>IRC</i>	<i>Red incidents</i>	<i>Amber incidents</i>	<i>Total of incidents</i>
Brook House	2	59	61
Campsfield	1	14	15
Colnbrook	4	109	113
Dover	1	39	40
Dungavel	0	3	3
Harmondsworth	0	145	145
Haslar	0	2	2
Morton Hall	6	29	35
Tinsley House	0	17	17
Yarlswood	1	109	110
Total	15	528	541

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140714/text/140714w0003.htm#14071452000016>

Human Trafficking

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many organisations they invited to tender for the human trafficking hotline to be launched later this month by the NSPCC.[HL801]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what annual budget the NSPCC will receive to run the human trafficking hotline to be launched later this month.[HL802]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish the terms of reference for the contract to provide the human trafficking hotline.[HL803]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many non-governmental organisations they consulted prior to approaching the NSPCC to run a human trafficking hotline.[HL804]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): We are working with the NSPCC to pilot a Modern Slavery Helpline as part of a wider communications and marketing campaign, to raise awareness of modern slavery. The NSPCC will be given funding of up to £50,000

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

for one year to host the helpline. We have engaged NSPCC by means of a formal Grant Agreement, not a Contract, which will be managed using standard Home Office grant terms and conditions in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money. On this occasion, no other organisations were invited to submit delivery proposals.

The helpline will be established by the end of July 2014. We will work with a number of non-governmental organisations, prior to the launch of the helpline, to ensure that callers to the helpline have access to a range of organisations that can provide additional help, advice and support.

Our longer term requirements for a helpline will be considered as part of the National Referral Mechanism review, which will conclude later this year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140715w0001.htm#14071556000132>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Baroness Docey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions have been double flagged by the Crown Prosecution Service over the past three years using the flag for monitoring human trafficking and the flag for monitoring child abuse.[HL619]

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness) (LD): The Crown Prosecution Service identifies both human trafficking and child abuse cases by way of a database monitoring flag applied to the electronic case record.

The number of defendants prosecuted who were flagged for human trafficking offences and where the child abuse flag was applied are outlined in the table below. During the past year there has been an increase in the numbers of such cases investigated by law enforcement agencies and referred to the CPS for prosecution.

2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
9	19	59

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140707w0001.htm#14070733000289>

Human Trafficking: Children

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward legislative proposals to recognise child trafficking as a separate offence to adult trafficking. [202633]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The most effective way to protect child victims of trafficking is to have a general offence, which applies to both adults and children. The Modern Slavery Bill contains a general human trafficking offence, which does not require prosecutors to prove the age of the child, as this can lead to practical problems during prosecutions. Targeting a child will, however, be an aggravating factor for sentencing purposes, and the human trafficking offence in the Modern Slavery Bill will carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Attorney General on her policy in relation to the prosecution of child victims of trafficking who are forced to commit crimes. [203000]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Modern Slavery Bill provides for a statutory defence for victims of slavery and trafficking who have been compelled to commit an offence as direct result of their trafficking or slavery situation. In preparing the Bill, I have had discussions with ministerial colleagues including with the Attorney-General in relation to the statutory defence.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

When considering whether the defence applies, the age, sex and any physical or mental illness or disability of the victim is relevant under the test set out in the Bill.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140707/text/140707w0003.htm#14070761000055>

Press Releases

Changes to the immigration rules will clamp down on visa abuse

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-immigration-rules-will-clamp-down-on-visa-abuse>

Modern slavery: How the UK is leading the fight

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/modern-slavery-how-the-uk-is-leading-the-fight>

Latest Asylum Trends in Europe

<http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/PR-09-2014-latest-asylum-trends.pdf>

Human trafficking has no place in modern world, General Assembly President says

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48271>

New Publications

Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/330787/Care_of_unaccompanied_and_trafficked_children.pdf

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322331/children-detention-may2014.ods

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322309/asylum-apr2014.ods

An Inspection of Asylum Support

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/An-Inspection-of-Asylum-Support-FINAL-WEB.pdf>

Asylum in the UK Information for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) People

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/8499/LGBTI_info.pdf

European Asylum Support Office: Annual Report – Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2013

<http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/EASO-AR-final.pdf>

Migrants in low-skilled work

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/327997/MAC-Migrants_in_low-skilled_work_Full_report_2014.pdf

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Impact of migration on UK consumer prices

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/328006/Impact_of_migration_on_UK_consumer_prices_2014.pdf

'Harsh, Unjust, Unnecessary' : Adult Dependant Relative Report

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/233262294/Adr-Report#>

An Inspection of the Non-Suspensive Appeals process for 'clearly unfounded' asylum and human rights claims

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/NSA-report-FINAL-WEB.pdf>

Migrant access to social security and healthcare: policies and practice

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/final_synthesis_report_migrant_access_to_social_security_final_3july2014_en.pdf

Visitor & Migrant NHS Cost Recovery Programme Implementation Plan 2014–16

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/329789/NHS_Implementation_Plan_Phase_3.PDF

News

Judges uphold income rules on spouse visas

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4145694.ece>

Migrants win 1m jobs with can-do attitude

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4142565.ece>

Britain 'struggling to cope' with immigration, says official report

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10953428/Britain-struggling-to-cope-with-immigration-says-official-government-report.html>

Sustained immigration has not harmed Britons' employment, say government advisers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sustained-immigration-has-not-harmed-britons-employment-say-government-advisers-9592892.html>

Firms forced to take on migrants because school leavers don't even have basic skills

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2685356/Firms-forced-migrants-school-leavers-dont-basic-skills.html>

Mass immigration to parts of Britain HAS driven down wages of the poor and put pressure on services, official report finds

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2684410/Rogue-bosses-exploiting-cheap-foreign-workers-face-prosecution-MILLION-years-damning-Home-Office-report-finds.html>

Immigration 'choking off' skills

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2683213/IMMIGRATION-CHOKING-OFF-SKILLS.html>

Six real life stories of migration

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jul/09/six-real-life-stories-of-migration>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

More than half of voters are against SNP plans to increase immigration to independent Scotland, says Daily Record poll

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/more-half-voters-against-snp-3846122>

Inspirational tale of Glasgow housing scheme teens who saved pal from deportation

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/revealed-inspirational-tale-glasgow-housing-3846598>

Immigration: Serious failings within Government system carry 'high risk of unfairness' for asylum seekers, says High Court judge

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-serious-failings-within-government-system-carry-high-risk-of-unfairness-for-asylum-seekers-says-high-court-judge-9595787.html>

You thought 'Benefits Street' was controversial: Follow-up documentary 'Immigrant Street' has got locals worried

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/you-thought-benefits-street-was-controversial-followup-documentary-immigrant-street-has-got-locals-worried-9602434.html>

Migrants must pay more to use NHS, say ministers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28291276>

Scotland 'failing' on benefit fraud by asylum seekers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-28314513>

Ban on Muslim garb in schools no bar to removal to France

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/reports/article4147382.ece>

Minimum income immigration requirement proportionate

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/reports/article4150400.ece>

Legal aid residence test 'discriminatory and unlawful', high court rules

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/jul/15/legal-aid-high-court-residence-test-discrimination-grayling>

Home Office accessing NHS records to help track down illegal immigrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jul/13/home-office-nhs-records-illegal-immigrants>

Glasgow is my lucky city: Refugee finds new life in Scotland after fleeing persecution

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/glasgow-lucky-city-refugee-finds-3880071>

Immigration report 'too pro-European', Tories complain

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-28368567>

Immigration report changed for being too 'pro-European'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/10977652/Immigration-report-changed-for-being-too-pro-European.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

International students in Scotland subjected to 'Communist-style monitoring' in UK clampdown on immigration

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/international-students-in-scotland-subjected-to-communist-style-monitoring-in-uk-clam.24803631>

Chief Inspector publishes investigation into asylum support

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2480_chief_insp_ector_publishes_investigation_into_asylum_support

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Questions

Faith Group Relationships

Lord Carrington of Fulham: To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they plan to take to improve the relationship between the Muslim community and other faith groups in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi):

My Lords, the Department for Communities and Local Government published its strategy *Creating the Conditions for Integration* in 2012. This sets out the work of the Government and other organisations in helping to create the right conditions for everybody in society to participate. The Government are supporting projects to break down barriers, encourage community cohesion and celebrate what we have in common.

Lord Carrington of Fulham: ... With some young British Muslims being radicalised, does she agree that it is very important that they are taught at a very young age, either in school or elsewhere, to understand the similarities between all religions, in particular the shared values of the Abrahamic religions, so they can understand that Christianity and Judaism are not the enemies of Islam? Can she suggest the best way to make this come about?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: My Lords, it is important that all people, especially young people, have an understanding of the diverse communities in which we live, including different faith communities. My noble friend may be heartened to know from surveys, including a DCLG survey from a few years ago, that 90% of Muslims agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well, as opposed to 87% of the general population; 89% of Muslims agreed that it is possible to fully belong to Britain and maintain a religious identity, compared to 72% of the general population; and 74% of Muslims believe that there should be more mixing between different communities and different ethnic and religious groups, compared to 71% of the general public.

Lord Patel of Bradford: My Lords, will the Minister say what plans the Government have to work with the media to encourage them to stop publishing demonising articles about whole communities because of the actions of a handful of terrorists?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: ... One of the strands of the work of the cross-government group on anti-Muslim hatred is looking at how we can work with the Society of Editors, among others, to ensure that headlines are, first and foremost, not sensational, but secondly, reflective of facts.

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: Does the Minister agree that in many parts of the country,

Community Relations

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

relations between Muslims and other faith communities are extremely good? This was true in the diocese of Oxford when I was there and continues to be so. Because of the good relationships between faith leaders, including Muslim leaders, it has been possible to dissipate many potential signs of trouble.

Reply from Baroness Warsi: ... I am incredibly proud of the work that the Government have done in harnessing the power of faith groups to create that understanding. ...

Lord Hussain: My Lords, will the Minister tell the House if she thinks that the Government's approach in dealing with the so-called Trojan horse issue is a help or a hindrance in the fight to tackle extremism in this country?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: My Lords, my noble friend makes an important point; everything that we do in tackling extremism must be done in a way that actually resolves extremism. Our language, our policy approach and our conduct must satisfy the end goal rather than the process.

Baroness Uddin: My Lords, would the Minister take the opportunity to pay condolences to the family of the student Nahid al-Manea, who was brutally murdered on the streets of England? Does she accept that some of these very brutal attacks and the rise of Islamophobia are real reasons why some young people are resistant to working across different faith groups? I agree that an enormous amount of work has been done in this country. Would the Minister accept that England's record in the arena of multifaith work is second to none?

Reply from Baroness Warsi: My Lords, the issue of anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia is something that I have personally championed. One of the first speeches that I gave in government was about Islamophobia. I used the phrase, "Islamophobia has passed the dinner-table test"—and probably still bear the scars of it. It is important that we fight this new form of hate crime and that the Government have, rightly, invested in projects such as Tell MAMA, to record and make sure the data on anti-Muslim hate crime are accurate and credible.

It is important to make another point; we have been here before. There have been moments in our history when we have not been entirely comfortable with a faith community and we have questioned the loyalty of faith communities, whether that was the Jewish or the Catholic community. But our trust in our institutions and values has got us through it—and we will get through it again.

Lord Scott of Foscote: ... If an improvement is needed in relationships between faith groups, one way of promoting that might be to encourage interfaith marriages.

Reply from Baroness Warsi: First and foremost, my Lords, it is important that we allow people to marry somebody of their choosing, whatever faith they belong to. That is why I am incredibly proud that the Government have done so much work on the issue of forced marriages, including criminalising a practice that should have been criminalised many years ago.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140708-0001.htm#14070883000509>

New Publication

Faith and Belief Scotland: A Contemporary Mapping of Attitudes and Provisions in Scotland

<http://faithandbelief.div.ed.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Faith-and-Belief-Scotland-FINAL-VERSION-OF-REPORT.pdf>

Community Relations (continued) News

Warning of new sectarian divide between faiths and secularists

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/warning-of-new-sectarian-divide-between-faiths-and-secularists.24707110>

Archbishop warns of culture of fear

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/archbishop-warns-of-culture-of-fear.24734669>

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Equality

New Publications

Gender Segregation at Events and Meetings – Guidance for Universities and Student's Unions

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Guidance%20for%20universities%20and%20students%20unions%2017-07-14.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/2902308_EHRC_AR_acc2.pdf

News

Lenny Henry: BBC diversity push risks 'blaming the victim'

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jul/08/lenny-henry-bbc-diversity-victim-tony-hall>

I've experienced racism in the acting industry, now I'm tackling it

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/07/racism-acting-industry-act-for-change>

Why do elite universities admit so few ethnic minority applicants?

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jul/08/why-do-elite-universities-admit-so-few-ethnic-minority-applicants>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Caste Discrimination

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140709/halltext/140709h0002.htm#14070973000003>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued)

UK Parliament Question

Castes: Discrimination

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what they consider to be the necessary preconditions for the implementation of section 9(5)(a) of the Equality Act 2010 as provided by section 97 of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013; and what timetable they envisage for the fulfilment of those preconditions. [HL806]

Reply from Baroness Northover: The Government's timetable published in July 2013 set out the steps towards implementation of section 9 (5)(a) of the Equality Act 2010. These steps are (i) EHRC published research; (ii) a public consultation on prospective legislation; (iii) engagement with specific affected groups; (iv) draft Affirmative regulations for public consultation, and (v) Parliamentary debates on the regulations. These pre-conditions for implementation, their sequence and the duration of each step remain the same as in the timetable.

As stated in Lord Ahmad's answer of 6 May to the Noble Lord's Question (HL6447), stage (i) – publication of the EHRC research – has now happened, but stage (ii) – the public consultation on prospective legislation – is now expected to issue in the Autumn.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140716w0001.htm#14071661000108>

Press Release

New On-line Journal to be Launched as part of TELL MAMA

<http://tellmamauk.org/new-line-journal-launched-part-tell-mama/>

New Publication

European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance Annual Report

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20report%202013.pdf

News

MP lambasts anti Muslim reports

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2686232/MP-LAMBASTS-ANTI-MUSLIM-REPORTS.html>

Two Iranian men suffer 'racist attack' in Glasgow

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-28257077>

Two in hospital after racist attack

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/two-in-hospital-after-racist-attack.24716072>

Multi-lingual racist abuse

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/multi-lingual-racist-abuse.24733683>

Police in racism row over probe into officers

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/police-in-racism-row-over-probe-into-officers.24776641>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Former promising footballer fined £1,000 for racist Facebook post

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-28354079>

Charity takes battle to help beat bigotry to Westminster

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/charity-takes-battle-to-help-beat-bigotry-to-westminster-171970n.24781432>

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Scottish Independence Referendum

Scottish Government Publication

Scotland's Future - Connecting Rural Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00455562.pdf>

UK Government Publications

The Referendum on Separation for Scotland: Implications for Pensions and Benefits

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmsscota/498/498.pdf>

Scottish independence referendum: jobs and pension factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scottish-independence-referendum-jobs-and-pensions/scottish-independence-referendum-jobs-and-pensions>

UK Government Press Release

Scotland independence referendum: UK government launches YouDecide

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-independence-referendum-uk-government-launches-youdecide>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

'What next for Scotland?' asks this year's Festival of Politics

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/79442.aspx>

New Publication

NHS letter about Female Genital Mutilation

[http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO\(2014\)19.pdf](http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2014)19.pdf)

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Other UK Parliament and Government

House of Lords Debate

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140718-0001.htm#14071854000545>

Parliamentary Questions

Kosher and Halal Meat

Philip Davies: If [the Minister of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs] will ensure that all halal and kosher meat is labelled at point of sale. [904919]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (George Eustice): We believe that, in the first instance, it is for food retailers and food outlets to provide their customers with reliable information. I know that my hon. Friend is a long-standing campaigner on this issue, but, as I have explained to him before, the introduction of a compulsory labelling scheme for halal and kosher meat would present challenges, because there is no single unified definition. Nevertheless, the European Commission is currently conducting a review, and we will consider its report when it is published later in the year. ...

Philip Davies: ... Is the Minister aware that the Jewish and Muslim communities would be happy with full labelling of halal and kosher meat if all other meat products were also fully labelled to show the method of slaughter? I am sure that many consumers would want to see such labelling. Will the Minister proceed with the introduction of comprehensive labelling showing the method of slaughter, including halal and kosher, given that it clearly commands widespread support? ...

Reply from George Eustice: ... As I have said, the European Commission is considering the issue. It is most likely to consider whether the animal was stunned or unstunned, because there is a clear definition in EU law. I am aware that groups in both halal and shechita say that they are open to exploring that further, and I look forward to having a dialogue with them and considering the European Commission report when it appears in December.

Jim Fitzpatrick: ... The point that [the Minister] has made is absolutely correct: it is a question of whether the animal has been stunned or not stunned. It is an animal welfare issue. Is it not the case that the majority of halal meat is from animals that were stunned? Surely that is the line that the Government should be pursuing in Brussels: “stunned” and “not stunned” labelling.

Reply from George Eustice: I entirely agree. There is a clear legal definition of “stunned” in EU law, namely that stunning renders the animal insensible to pain immediately. In the case of halal, some 90% of poultry and lambs have been stunned, and we should recognise that fact.

Bob Russell: Consumers are entitled to know exactly what is going on. Does the Minister agree that what we need in all our slaughterhouses is CCTV to give them that further assurance?

Reply from George Eustice: We considered the issue of CCTV in slaughterhouses during our consultation on slaughterhouse regulations last year, and concluded that it would not improve the situation much. Indeed, CCTV had already been installed in some of the slaughterhouses in which problems had been exposed by, for instance, Animal Aid, and it had not prevented abuses. However, we keep an open mind.

Philip Hollobone: My constituents believe that halal and kosher food should be labelled as such, but if there are already clear EU legal definitions of “stunned” and “not stunned”,

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

what is there to prevent the UK Government from pressing ahead with labelling food in that way?

Reply from George Eustice: Having looked into the matter exhaustively, we concluded that if we introduced “method of slaughter” labelling, it would be best to introduce it at European level, because that would be safer and clearer legally. Spain considered introducing a national labelling scheme in 2012, but the Commission ruled against it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140717/debtext/140717-0001.htm#14071746000028>

Female Genital Mutilation

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department has issued for teachers on identifying girls at risk of female genital mutilation; and if he will make a statement. [205021]

Edward Timpson: On 3 April 2014 the Department for Education published ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’, which provides schools with updated statutory guidance about pupil safeguarding. The guidance contains information about female genital mutilation (FGM) and a link to more detailed multi-agency guidelines.

On 22 May 2014 the Department’s summer term e-mail to all schools drew attention to the statutory guidance and reminded schools of the need to be particularly vigilant in the summer term because of the heightened risk during the summer holiday.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140715/text/140715w0002.htm#14071576000087>

New Publication

Our Borderlands – Our Future

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmsscotaf/556/556.pdf>

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Other News

Visibility of the new crescent moon for Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/visibility-of-the-new-crescent-moon-for-ramadan-and-eid-al-fitr>

Glasgow's Muslim community on how Islamic holy month of Ramadhan is celebrated in Scotland

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/glasgows-muslim-community-how-islamic-3834072>

Enjoy tea, cake and an exploration of slavery...

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/enjoy-tea-cake-and-an-exploration-of-slavery-170322n.24695788>

Other News (continued)

Welsh Government standing by Muslim community in 'difficult times'

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/equalityanddiversity/2014/140714-muslim-community/?lang=en>

A ban on the niqab is contrary to British values

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/a-ban-on-the-niqab-is-contrary-to-british-values-9607018.html?origin=internalSearch>

Talks aim at promise to halt FGM

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4150565.ece>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

**** Criminal Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/79295.aspx>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

**** Assisted Dying Bill** (England and Wales only)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/assisteddying.html>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140718-0001.htm#14071854000545>

**** Asylum (Time Limit) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/asylumtimelimit.html>

**** Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/modernslavery.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140708/debtext/140708-0001.htm#14070874000001>

House of Commons Library Research Paper

<http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP14-37.pdf>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament (continued)

** UK Borders Control Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/ukborderscontrol.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation Bill (closing date 25 September 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/Organ_Donation_Consultation_Document.pdf

** **Modern Slavery Bill (UK Parliament)** (closing date 14 October 2014)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2014/july/have-your-say-on-the-modern-slavery-bill/>

Scottish Independence Bill: A consultation on an interim constitution for Scotland (closing date 20 October 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452762.pdf>

(summary: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452784.pdf>)

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

Light on: perceptions and interpretations of expressions (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BPJCY6J>

Advancing Migrant Access to health Services in Europe (no closing date given)

<http://www.amase.eu/wp/be-part-of-amase/>

** **Our Borderlands - Our Future** (no closing date given)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/our-borderlands-our-future/>

** **Migrants' Views on the Impact of the Migration Debate** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L5JW3CP>

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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

Homecoming Scotland 2014

Wide range of events throughout the whole of 2014. For information see the full programme <http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014/events/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

MULTICULTURAL HOMECOMING 2014

BEMIS, in partnership with Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government has launched 'Multicultural Homecoming 2014', a programme of events to showcase Scotland's rich cultural diversity, and a small Grants Programme to help community groups put on local events. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/project/multicultural-homecoming-2014/>

**** this week!**

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

22 July 2014 in Edinburgh (7.00 – 9.00)

4 September 2014 in Glasgow (7.00 – 9.00)

BEMIS event in partnership with CEMVO Scotland to discuss the Independence Referendum with representatives of the Yes ,and Better Together campaigns. For information and book a place, contact Danny Boyle danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk / 0141 248 4830.

Mainstreaming Equalities

11 August, 15 September, 6 October, and 4 November 2014 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Institute of Leadership and Management endorsed training course for Voluntary Sector organisations to develop capacity on mainstreaming equality. Participants should ideally be at a senior level within the organisation or with delegated authority to take action to mainstream equality. For information contact John Robertson 0141 332 2444 / john.robertson@gcvs.org.uk or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/Training/MainstreamingEqualities2014.docx>

**** The Scottish Independence Referendum**

16 August 2014 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss how the Referendum campaign is being viewed around the world, For information and to book tickets see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/scottish-independence-referendum/>

**** Scottish Social Attitudes/ Identity**

16 August 2014 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (4.00 – 5.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss Economic and Social Research Council research into a number of the key issues relating to Scotland and the UK's constitutional future. For information and to book tickets see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/scottish-social-attitudes-identity/>

**** Immigration**

17 August 2014 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.00 – 2.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss the key issues for immigration policy in the UK and Scotland and the impacts of immigration on the economy and society. For information and to book tickets see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/immigration/>

Racism: From the Labour Movement to the Far-Right

5-6 September 2014 in Glasgow

Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity conference to consider the continuing mutation and expansion of racism into new 'cultural' forms and the electoral consolidation of parties of the far-right. For information see <http://racismconference14.wordpress.com/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People**

10th (9.30-4.30pm) & 11th (9.30-12.30pm) September 2014

8th (9.30-4.30pm) & 9th (9.30-12.30pm) October 2014

6th (9.30-4.30pm) & 7th (9.30-12.30pm) November 2014

3rd (9.30-4.30pm) & 4th (9.30-12.30pm) December 2014

Shakti Women's Aid training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html> or contact 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day workshop

10 November 2014 in Edinburgh (1.15 – 4.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to explore the HMD 2015 theme "Keep the memory alive", hear more about activity organising, and meet others who are planning to mark HMD in your area. Free but booking essential. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk.

**** Promoting Good Relations: New Approaches, New Solutions**

21 November 2014 in Glasgow

Commission for Racial Equality and rights conference to consider one of the most challenging aspects of the Public Sector Equality Duty – the duty to foster good relations. For information contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

Scotland's Referendum: Qs&As <http://www.scotreferendum.com/questions-and-answers/>

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

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

BBC Democracy Live 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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