

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 and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-11622 Bob Doris: Migrant Voice—That the Parliament congratulates Migrant Voice in Maryhill on being awarded £9,999 by Awards for All from the Big Lottery Fund; recognises that Migrant Voice was established in 2010 to change the way that migrants are perceived in the media by delivering training sessions to members that enable them to reach out to journalists and other media outlets about issues that affect migrants; further understands that the grant will be used to engage new migrant communities in Glasgow in a multimedia project that will record their experiences and build a dialogue with other locals; believes that this will help build a stronger community that is culturally and ethnically diverse, and wishes Migrant Voice every success with this and future projects.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11622&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Act 2014

Stuart Andrew [906041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to implement the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Immigration Act received Royal Assent in May. Much has already been implemented. This includes new powers to revoke driving licences from illegal migrants, new duties on Registrars to report sham marriages and new Article 8 provisions that will require the Courts to give due weight to the public interest when deciding deportation and immigration cases raising the right to respect for private and family life. Measures which place restrictions on illegal immigrants accessing rented housing will go live in the West Midlands on 1st December.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-11/906041/>

Immigration

Christopher Chope [213887] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been convicted of offences under section 24A of the Immigration Act 1971 in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below provides the number of defendants proceeded against for offences under Section 24A of the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales from 2009 to 2013.

The statistics on defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales are supplied by the Ministry of Justice for the Home Office to publish annually within Immigration Statistics. Annual data is available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, table pr_01, from the Library of the House and from the GOV.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014>

Defendants proceeded against for offences under Section 24A of the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales, 2009 to 2013(1)(2)

Year	Act	Section	Offence description	Proceeded against	Magistrates' Courts		The Crown Court
					Found guilty	For trial	Found guilty
2009	Immigration Act 1971	24A	Seeking leave to enter or remain or postponement of revocation by deception	200	64	116	94
2010	Immigration Act 1971	24A	Seeking leave to enter or remain or postponement of revocation by deception	188	36	127	96
2011	Immigration Act 1971	24A	Seeking leave to enter or remain or postponement of revocation by deception	121	15	157	131

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2012	Immigration Act 1971	24A	Seeking leave to enter or remain or postponement of revocation by deception	87	14	82	72
2013	Immigration Act 1971	24A	Seeking leave to enter or remain or postponement of revocation by deception	66	6	79	66

Source: Ministry of Justice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-07/213887/>

Immigration

Christopher Chope [213886] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been convicted of offences under section 24(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below provides the number of defendants proceeded against for offences under Section 24(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales from 2009 to 2013.

The statistics on defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2007 in England and Wales are supplied by the Ministry of Justice for the Home Office to publish annually within Immigration Statistics. Annual data is available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, table pr_01, from the Library of the House and from the GOV.UK website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014>.

The new Immigration Act makes it harder for people to live in the UK illegally. It makes it harder for illegal immigrants to abuse our benefits and public services, and makes it easier for us to remove them by reducing the number of appeals.

Defendants proceeded against for offences under Section 24(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 in England and Wales, 2009 to 2013(1)(2)(3)					
				Magistrates' Courts	The Crown Court
Year	Act	Section	Offence description	Found guilty	Found guilty
2009	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (i)	Overstaying time limit of leave	5	9
2009	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (ii)	Failure to observe conditions of leave	1	2
2010	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (i)	Overstaying time limit of leave	2	4
2010	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (ii)	Failure to observe conditions of leave	2	0
2011	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (i)	Overstaying time limit of leave	0	1
2011	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (ii)	Failure to observe conditions of leave	0	1
2012	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (i)	Overstaying time limit of leave	3	4

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2012	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (ii)	Failure to observe conditions of leave	2	1
2013	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (i)	Overstaying time limit of leave	2	4
2013	Immigration Act 1971	S.24 (1) (b) (ii)	Failure to observe conditions of leave	1	1
<i>Source: Ministry of Justice.</i>					
(1) Where a defendant is prosecuted for one or more non-immigration offences and one or more immigration offences the offence recorded is the principal immigration offence.					
(2) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.					
(3) Section 21(b) ((i)(ii) As added by Section 2 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 - (replaced Section 24 (1) (aa) from 14 February 2000).					

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-07/213886/>

Local Government Services: Immigrants

Lord Kennedy of Southwark [HL2521] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment have they made of the costs to local authorities of providing housing and other services to people with no other recourse to public funds.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government does not hold a national estimate of the costs to local authorities of providing housing and other services to people with No Recourse to Public Funds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-29/HL2521/>

Foreign Workers

Rosie Cooper [213993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the 2011 Migration Advisory Committee's salary recommendations for overhead line workers on the shortage occupation list for inconsistencies in the salary requirements; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The appropriate salary requirements for Tier 2 workers are determined by the Home Office and are benchmarked against prevailing earnings for individual occupations, drawing on available sources of earnings data including the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. While the minimum salary requirement for overhead lines workers fell from £12.33 to £10.12 per hour between 2011 and 2012, the most recent changes to the Shortage Occupation List, effective from 6 April 2014, increased the annual earnings requirement for this occupation from £22,800 to £23,600 for experienced workers, and from £18,100 to £18,600 for new entrants. The Migration Advisory Committee has been asked by the Government to consider the continued inclusion of overhead lines workers on the Shortage Occupation List, and issued a call for evidence on 29 September 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213993/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Foreign Workers

Rosie Cooper [214206] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on recruitment and retention of voltage restrictions on overhead lines worker posts on the Shortage Occupancy Lists; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) assesses shortage occupations for the Government and provides expert advice and recommendations. The high voltage restriction was recommended by the MAC in March 2011 and the Government accepted the recommendation.

In 2014 the Government commissioned the MAC to carry out a partial review of the Shortage Occupation List, including linesworkers in particular. The MAC has issued a public call for evidence which closes on 5 December 2014. The Government expects to receive its report on 30 January 2015 and will consider the MAC's findings and recommendations carefully.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-11/214206/>

EU: Migration

Lord Lea of Crondall: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any proposal to other European Union member states, either severally or collectively, which would limit (1) the right of United Kingdom citizens to live and work in other European Union member states, or (2) the parallel right of citizens of other European Union member states to live and work in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the Government have regularly engaged with other member states on the issue of free movement, the Home Secretary has consistently pressed for action on abuse and the European Council has recognised that this issue needs to be tackled. The Government have also started a debate on reforming the transitional controls for new member states and will engage constructively with other member states in discussion on how best to achieve change in this area.

Lord Lea of Crondall: ... does the Minister agree that there is a broad balance at the moment, not by design but by the facts on the ground, between the number of Brits living over there, in the EU, and the number of Europeans coming here? Roughly 2.2 million gain a living there and there are a few more here. Secondly, is the Minister aware that it is not exceptional to have this arrangement in Britain? Does he agree that, for example, there are far more people from the rest of the EU living in Germany—not least from Greece and Romania—than are living here in Britain?

Reply from Lord Bates: ... The German Government are passing legislation through the Bundestag to restrict the benefits of those who come to Germany when they are not genuinely seeking work. It was tested in the European Court of Justice. These are exactly the types of reforms and reviews which we have been pushing, from our side, and which are getting greater support across the other member states of the European Union.

Lord Deben: Does my noble friend agree that tone is very important in these issues? We should show quite clearly how much we benefit from the large number of people from the rest of the European Union working here, and how much the rest of the European Union benefits from people from the United Kingdom going there. If we talked a bit more cheerfully about this—the greatest peacetime achievement that has happened in Europe—perhaps people would be more willing to listen to our comments.

Reply from Lord Bates: I totally agree with my noble friend about tone. The British people have a reputation for hospitality and tolerance and have welcomed

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people who are making a positive contribution to our society. However, that of course has its limits and we need to be mindful that there is great concern about unrestricted, uncontrolled immigration into this country and the impact it has upon social cohesion and our public services.

The Lord Bishop of Worcester: My Lords, the Minister mentioned the reputation that this country has for hospitality. Is he aware of an associated issue: the difficulty that members of the Commonwealth face in obtaining a visa even to visit, let alone to work and live in this country, which seriously hampers a lot of very important overseas links with dioceses, including my own—so much so that my friends in Tanzania were unable to be present at my wife's funeral earlier this year? Is that sort of impediment government policy and, if not, can he assure us that it will be addressed?

Reply from Lord Bates: We very much encourage people to come to this country, whether to study or to work. We want to encourage the best and the brightest to come to this country, as well as tourists; there are many people we want to encourage—but there is a difference between that and people who significantly abuse the system in coming here because of benefits.

Lord Davies of Stamford: ... will the Government agree that free movement of labour, apart from being a most valuable human right, is actually a factor of considerable economic importance in this country?

Reply from Lord Bates: We totally agree with that. I have to say that the figures that I have are that there are 2.3 million EU nationals living in the UK and 1.4 million British citizens living in the EU. Those are very important for the success of the single market, which has already been referred to. Of course we welcome people who genuinely want to come here to work, study or visit. ...

Baroness Sharples: My Lords, is it not the fact that the number of children coming into school with English as their second language has risen from 6% last year to 16% this year?

Reply from Lord Bates: My noble friend is absolutely right, and that is one reason why we have said that it is a condition of immigration that the English language must be an important part of that. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141119-0001.htm#14111969000845>

Student Immigration

Mark Lazarowicz: When [the Home Secretary] next plans to meet the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss student immigration. [906020]

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary meets colleagues regularly for discussions on a range of issues, including on how we can continue to attract the brightest and the best to the UK while bearing down on abuse.

Mark Lazarowicz: The Government's arbitrary immigration target has clearly been shown to be both unworkable and misguided. A particularly misguided aspect is the decision to include international students in the target. There is now consensus—from the Labour party, political parties across the House and even Government Members, as well as from universities, trade unions and business—that the target should not include international students. Will the Home Secretary and the Minister join that consensus?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The short answer to the hon. Gentleman's question is no, we will not, because students continue to use public services. If we look at the Office for National Statistics data for the 12 months to September 2013, we see that 50,000 non-EU students left, whereas 124,000 entered the country, which suggests that students have an impact on net migration.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

I say to the hon. Gentleman and the sector generally that there is no cap on the number of legitimate students who can come to study within the UK. Indeed, we have seen significant increases from a number of countries, including China, Brazil and Malaysia. The UK very much remains open to business for students. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141117/debtext/141117-0001.htm#1411172000011>

Overseas Students

Chuka Umunna [211990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) assessment she has made and (b) research he has commissioned on the potential effect on UK export growth of the inclusion of foreign students in the Government's net migration target.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There is no cap on the number of foreign students who can come to the UK so there is no effect on UK export growth from their inclusion in the way the UK measures net migration.

Net migration statistics are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. This includes students in net migration in the same way as other migrants are included. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand also include students in their net migration figures.

Net migration measures the difference between the number of people coming to the UK and the number leaving, so if students return home after their studies, their impact on long-term net migration will be minimal. The ONS has recently improved its methodology so that it is possible to better identify students in the emigration flows to give a more accurate measure of the contribution of students to overall net migration. In the last year, 124,000 non-EU students came to Britain to stay for more than 12 months, and the ONS estimates that only 50,000 left the country.

All migrants who are in the UK for 12 months or more have an impact on our communities, infrastructure and public services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-27/211990/>

Deportation: Students

The following three questions all received the same answer

Ian Lucas [212476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many students of each institution have been deported from UK universities and colleges as a result of Educational Testing Service investigations in each month since February 2014.

Ian Lucas [212477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the country of origin was of each student deported as a result of the BBC Panorama investigation broadcast in February 2014; and to which country was each such student returned.

Ian Lucas [212478] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many students of have been deported from UK universities and colleges as a result of investigations into Educational Testing Service since February 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Following investigations, significant steps have been taken to identify, locate and remove those who have fraudulently obtained visas through abuse of ETS.

The Home Office publishes quarterly transparency data which shows the total number of individuals who have been removed as a result of their involvement in the Educational Testing Service fraud. The most recent published data covers the

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period up to 30 June 2014 and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-august-2014>

As at 30 June, the Home Office had made more than 1800 refusal and removal decisions, carried out almost 800 enforcement visits, detained over 300 individuals and removed over 90.

We are unable to break the number of individuals who have been removed into sub groups based on the institution of study as this runs the risk of making those individuals identifiable. In addition to this the data that would be required to make the requested breakdown is not available from one source and would incur disproportionate costs to gather it manually.

As I stated to the House on 24 June, the Home Office will provide regular updates to the House. These updates will be provided as part of the regular publication of data on the department's work on borders and immigration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-29/212476/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-29/212477/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-29/212478/>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Emily Thornberry [214408] To ask the Attorney General, how many prosecutions under section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 have been (a) brought and (b) successful in each year since the introduction of that offence.

Reply from Robert Buckland: The records held by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) indicate the number of offences charged, in which a prosecution commenced at magistrates' courts.

Section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 creates the offence of knowingly employing an adult subject to immigration control who has not been granted leave to enter or remain or whose leave to remain is invalid, has ceased to have effect or is subject to a condition preventing him from accepting the employment.

The table below sets out the number of offences in each year since the introduction of the offence, charged by way of Section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, in England and Wales.

	Offences Charged
2009-2010	14
2010-2011	21
2011-2012	18
2012-2013	15
2013-2014	19
Data Source: CPS Management Information System	

It is not possible to disaggregate which of these offences resulted in a successful outcome without reviewing individual case files which would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-11/214408/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have been held in immigration removal centres have been released on bail in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There were 1,596 detainees released on bail on leaving detention in 2010, 1,820 in 2011, 1,944 in 2012 and 1,707 in 2013.

Published figures on people detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers include those held in short term holding facilities, pre departure accommodation and immigration removal centres. Figures exclude those held 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.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration purposes, within Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, from the GOV.UK website:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213942/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people held in immigration removal centres have been deported from the UK to their country of origin in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Year Total detainees Removed from the UK

2010 Total 25,959 16,577

2011 Total 27,181 16,836

2012 Total 28,575 17,246

2013 Total 30,030 16,933

(1) All figures quoted have been taken from published detention statistics

(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.

(3) Figures relate to cases that have been deported, administratively removed or voluntarily departed from the UK.

(4) Figures relate to the most recent period of sole detention. The period starts when a person first enters the Home Office detention estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213943/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the annual cost is of a migrant being (a) on an electronic monitoring device and (b) held in detention.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The estimated annual cost of a migrant being

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

on an electronic monitoring device is £4968. The information provided is based on management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

The average annual cost of a migrant being held in detention is £36,026 and this is based on an average cost of £98.70 per day per detainee.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213948/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213949] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time spent in detention in immigration removal centres was in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the available information on length of detention, in bands, as at the last day of each calendar year for the last four years. The Home Office publishes length of detention figures in bands as average figures can be skewed by the small number of people detained for longer periods.

People in detention by length of detention				
As at last day of:	2010	2011	2012	2013
A: 3 days or less	172	105	98	115
B: 4 to 7 days	45	37	67	74
C: 8 to 14 days	186	191	255	326
D: 15 to 28 days	368	421	433	521
E: 29 days to less than 2 months	556	570	701	767
F: 2 months to less than 3 months	258	325	309	350
G: 3 months to less than 4 months	201	186	233	243
H: 4 months to less than 6 months	220	170	214	180
I: 6 months to less than 12 months	265	272	241	145
J: 12 months to less than 18 months	110	62	74	37
K: 18 months to less than 24 months	79	36	38	22
L: 24 months to less than 36 months	50	27	17	13
M: 36 months to less than 48 months	12	13	3	3
N: 48 months or more	3	4	2	0
Total	2,525	2,419	2,685	2,796

Published figures on people detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers include those held in short term holding facilities, pre departure accommodation and immigration removal centres. Figures exclude those held 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. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the Home Office detention estate.

If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers. The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration

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purposes, within Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, from the GOV.UK website:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213949/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213950] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the capacity of the UK prison estate for the purposes of immigration control is.

Reply from James Brokenshire: A Service Level Agreement between the Home Office and the National Offender Management Service allows for 600 spaces in the prison estate to be used for those held under immigration powers. This can be adjusted at an operational level by mutual agreement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213950/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [213951] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) irregular migrants and (b) asylum seekers are held in prisons under immigration powers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As of 3 November 2014, there were 385 detainees held in prison solely under immigration powers. The information provided above is based on management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

It is not possible to distinguish irregular migrants from asylum seekers without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213951/>

Detention Centres

Nicola Blackwood [213922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration detention places were available at the end of each of the last five financial years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of detention places available at the end of the last five financial years were as follows:

2008-2009 - 2,665

2009-2010- 2,670

2010-2011- 2,717

2011-2012 - 3,069

2012-2013 - 3,151

2013-2014 - 3,503

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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213922/>

Detention Centres

Nicola Blackwood [213923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total capacity is of the UK immigration detention estate.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: As of 11 November 2014, the Home Office had the capacity to detain 3,915 immigration detainees in the immigration detention estate. The information provided is based on management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics publications. These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213923/>

Offenders: Deportation

Dominic Raab [213969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of appeals lodged by foreign national offenders against their removal from the UK were based wholly or in part on (a) Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and (b) human rights grounds in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Data on unsuccessful appeals against deportation is only held at the level of coordinated paper case files or within the notes section of the Case Information Database (CID). Such data is not aggregated in national reporting systems, which would mean these questions could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

We can provide the following data

Year appeal lodged	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of FNO appeals lodged	1,781	1,908	1,740	2,147	2,441	1,135
Number of appeals allowed	433	623	555	670	416	10
Appeals allowed on HR grounds	234	363	360	378	133	2
(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information from the Home Office databases and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.						
(2) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case, on the Home Office's Case Information Database.						
(3) Data relates to appeals lodged in the specified years. Appeal outcomes may have occurred in the same or subsequent years.						
(4) Appeals allowed on Human Rights grounds may have been granted under one or more articles.						
(5) Allowed appeals is based on the latest appeal outcome which includes those allowed at both the lower and upper tiers.						
(6) Data extracted on 16 July 2014.						

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213969/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2457] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have been on support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for a period in excess of (1) six months, (2) one year and (3) five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Length of time people have been on Section 4 support	
Period on support	Number of People
6 to 12 months	684
1 year to 5 years	3013
5 years or more	698

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-27/HL2457/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2656] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people for whom return is not possible have been in receipt of support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 for longer than six months.

Reply from Lord Bates: Support is provided in some circumstances to failed asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Although no specific records are kept, only a small number of people seek support because they claim they are permanently unable to leave the UK. Support is provided because there is a temporary legal or practical obstacle to departure, for example because the person is too sick to travel or needs time to apply for the necessary travel document. The number of people who have been on section 4 support for more than 6 months is 4,395.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-04/HL2656/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2657] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the total amount of unspent credit which has been removed from Azure card users as a result of the card's £5 carry-over limit.

Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Approximately £850,000 of credit has not been used since the card was introduced in December 2009 for this reason.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-04/HL2657/>

Asylum: Children in Care

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2503] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are currently being looked after by local authorities; and how many are being supported after the age of 18 under leaving care legislation.

Reply from Lord Nash: The numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) looked after by each local authority in England at 31 March 2013 are published in Table LAA4 of the 'Children looked after in England' statistical first release.[1] The latest available figures (for 31 March 2014) are currently being prepared and will be published in December 2014.

The Department for Education collects information on care leavers aged 19 years old who were looked after aged 16 years old. The number of UASC who were care leavers aged 19 in the year ending 31 March 2013 is published in Table F1 of the Statistical first release.

[1] www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-29/HL2503/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Lord Hylton [HL2675] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for refugee status are outstanding from Syrian and Iraqi nationals; what is their estimate of the number of outstanding applications for persons of working age; and what is the annual cost to the United Kingdom of maintaining those applicants and their dependants.

Reply from Lord Bates: As at the end of June 2014, the total number of outstanding asylum claims from nationals of Syria is 884 and from nationals of Iraq is 646. The total number of outstanding asylum claims from people over the age of 18 stands at 21,633. These figures include both main claimants and their dependants who are waiting for either a decision on their claim or for a further review.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of asylum claims that are outstanding in the UK within Immigration Statistics Release. The data on nationals of Syria and Iraq that are outstanding are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: April – June 2014, table as.01q and table as.02q from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

In the financial year of 2013-2014, the Home Office spent £265.2 million on asylum support. This expenditure includes, but is not exclusive to, the provision of accommodation and cash support as well as support provided to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-05/HL2675/>

Asylum

Lord Hylton [HL2676] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to granting leave to remain in the United Kingdom to asylum applicants from Syria and Iraq.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government takes its international responsibilities very seriously and will always grant protection to those in genuine need. All asylum applications, including those from citizens of Iraq and Syria, are considered on a case-by-case basis. This is done in accordance with our international obligations and against the background of the latest available country of origin information drawn from a wide range of well-recognised sources.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-05/HL2676/>

Asylum: Syria

Mark Pritchard [213920] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to extend the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

Reply to James Brokenshire: Pursuant to the Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime's answer of 14 July 2014: Column 494W, there are no plans at present to extend the scheme and we will continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the region to identify the exceptional cases whose needs are so profound that they need to be resettled to a country like the UK. Groups of Syrians are being brought to the UK on a regular basis under the scheme. We envisage relocating several hundred people under the scheme over the next three years and we are on course to do so. Given the scale of the crisis, we believe that humanitarian aid and ending the crisis are the most effective way to help the majority of refugees, and ease the burden on their

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

host countries. The UK has donated £700 million to the relief effort in Syria. UK funding is helping hundreds of thousands of refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-10/213920/>

Deportations

Richard Graham: What recent steps she has taken to speed up the process of deportation. [906022]

Andrew Bridgen: What recent steps she has taken to speed up the process of deportation. [906031]

Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): Changes to the appeals and removals system introduced under the Immigration Act 2014 have reduced the number of immigration decisions that can be appealed from 17 to four. New appeal provisions now allow us to deport harmful individuals before their appeals are heard if there is no risk of serious, irreversible harm. We have also introduced new powers to stop foreign criminals using family life arguments to delay their deportation. ...

Andrew Bridgen: My constituents are rightly concerned about the £800 million annual cost to the taxpayer of housing more than 12,000 foreign offenders in UK jails. Will my hon. Friend outline what steps can be taken to reduce that cost, while still ensuring that justice is served?

Reply from James Brokenshire: I can certainly underline the steps that we are taking to speed up the process. Moving offenders straight from prison to deportation is saving the taxpayer £27.5 million, and Operation Nexus ensures that police officers work alongside immigration enforcement officers to ensure that the information needed to aid deportation later in the process is provided. We are taking an end-to-end approach.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141117/debtext/141117-0001.htm#1411172000013>

Modern Slavery

Pauline Latham: What steps [the Home Secretary] is taking to end modern slavery. [906018]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): This Government are determined to stamp out the abhorrent crime of modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Bill will give law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, and enhance support and protection for victims. We will shortly publish our modern slavery strategy setting out wider work to tackle these terrible crimes. I was pleased to announce on Thursday the appointment of Kevin Hyland as designate independent anti-slavery commissioner.

Pauline Latham: Does my right hon. Friend share my belief that Government alone cannot end modern slavery and we also need businesses to take a lead and play their part in this? What steps has she taken to achieve that?

Mrs May: I absolutely agree that dealing with this crime is about more than action by Government. That is why I am pleased that we have introduced into the Modern Slavery Bill a clause that requires larger businesses to show what they are doing to ensure that slavery is not taking place in their supply chains. We must all work together on this issue. I am pleased that we have been able to introduce that amendment, and I am sure that it will be supported throughout this House.

Fiona Mactaggart: The national referral mechanism, which is one of the ways of identifying victims, is flawed—as, indeed, the Home Secretary's recent report implies.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

What is she going to do to make sure that victims, whatever their immigration status, are identified and effectively protected?

Mrs May: The hon. Lady is right. Concerns about the national referral mechanism have been raised for some time. That is why the Government had a review of the NRM undertaken. That review has now been published, and we will set out our response to it in the modern slavery strategy that will, as I said, soon be published by the Government. We recognise the issues that have been raised in the review of the NRM, and I am pleased that it has taken place. We will of course put support for victims at the heart of what we are doing. ...

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141117/debtext/141117-0001.htm#1411172000009>

Human Trafficking

Diana Johnson [210325] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases the victim was a child.

Reply from Mike Penning: Regrettably, this information is still being assembled from a variety of statistical sources. Officials are contacting a number of individual courts to put together a response. I will write to the Honourable Member as soon as it is available. A copy of the letter will be placed in the House Library.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-14/210325/>

Press Release

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to evaluate forecasting methods and models

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-mac-to-evaluate-forecasting-methods-and-models>

New Publication

Love and money: how immigration policy discriminates between families

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/commentary/love-and-money-how-immigration-policy-discriminates-between-families>

News

Quarter of Britons say 'all immigrants should leave'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11238754/Quarter-of-Britons-say-all-immigrants-should-leave.html>

More migrants given UK citizenship

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/more-migrants-given-uk-citizenship-1.690470>

Britain leads Europe in giving out new passports

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4271851.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

More migrants given UK citizenship

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2840260/More-migrants-given-UK-citizenship.html>

PM: I'll ban benefits for EU migrants

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1487378.ece>

Immigration target unlikely to be met, says Theresa May

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30167160>

Theresa May: government likely to miss 'tens of thousands' migration target

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/nov/23/theresa-may-home-secretary-government-migration-target-fail-likely>

Government failing to reach immigration cut target, admits Home Secretary Theresa May

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-failing-to-reach-immigration-cut-target-admits-home-secretary-theresa-may-9878077.html>

Labour pledges 1,000 more immigration officers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/labour-pledges-1-000-more-immigration-officers-1-3608523>

Labour planning to restrict benefits for EU immigrants

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/scottish-politics/labour-planning-to-restrict-benefits-for-eu-immigrants.25910801>

Labour toughens stance on migrant jobseekers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4271836.ece>

£10 charge to be introduced for up to 5.5m visitors to the UK, Labour says

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/nov/18/ten-pound-charge-uk-visitors-labour-immigration-travel-border-guards>

Ukip wants borders closed to 'new people'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4271879.ece>

Migrant children who don't speak English are changing the character of Britain's schools, Iain Duncan Smith says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11234068/Migrant-children-who-dont-speak-English-are-changing-the-character-of-Britains-schools-Iain-Duncan-Smith-says.html>

School marked down by Ofsted for being 'too white'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11240700/School-marked-down-by-Ofsted-for-being-too-white.html>

Demand for action to reverse slump in overseas students

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/demand-for-action-to-reverse-slump-in-overseas-students.25913899>

'International students are paying a lot in fees, so not finding work makes it difficult to justify the cost'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/international-students-are-paying-a-lot-in-fees-so-not-finding-work-makes-it-difficul.25919866>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Universities need change to immigration rules

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/universities-need-change-to-immigration-rules.25906461>

City asylum seekers could be housed in industrial site

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/city-asylum-seekers-could-be-housed-in-industrial-site-189578n.25936802>

Automatic inquiries to halt sham marriages

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1487319.ece

Strong economy will bring more EU migrants, ministers warned

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11248189/Strong-economy-will-bring-more-EU-migrants-ministers-warned.html>

The English hospitals that need more nurses... but only if they can speak to their patients in Polish

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2845767/The-English-hospitals-need-nurses-speak-patients-Polish.html>

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Community Relations

News

More sacred texts in schools would help children 'Love thy neighbour as yourself' say teachers

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/news/more-sacred-texts-in-schools-would-help-children-love-thy-neighbour-as-yourself-say-teachers/>

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Equality

News

Role models can help business reflect the reality of social diversity

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/17/role-models-business-social-diversity-mentors>

Lack of diversity in top sports positions rules out huge pool of talent

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2014/nov/22/diversity-top-sports-positions>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Tackling Sectarianism

The following three questions all received the same answer

Elaine Murray: To ask the Scottish Government how much of the additional £3 million in 2015-16 to support community-based initiatives to tackle sectarianism and further develop understanding through research it will make available solely for antisectarian initiatives. (S4W-23088)

Elaine Murray: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to continue its equality funding stream in 2015-16 and, if so, at what level of funding. (S4W-23089)

Elaine Murray: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to continue its tackling sectarianism funding stream in 2015-16 and, if so, at what level of funding. (S4W-23090)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2015-16, published on 9 October 2014, stated that in 2015-16 the budget for promoting equality will be £20.3 million. It also stated we will invest over £3 million to support community based initiatives to tackle sectarianism and further develop our understanding through research, while continuing to support work to tackle racial or ethnic hatred.

The detail and breakdown of the funding for initiatives in 2015-16 will be confirmed in due course.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23088&ResultsPerPage=10>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23089&ResultsPerPage=10>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23090&ResultsPerPage=10>

Tackling Sectarianism

Elaine Murray: To ask the Scottish Government whether the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland has met representatives of football clubs, governing bodies or player trade unions and, if so, whom and when. (S4W-23091)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland has held a number of meetings and attended events in relation to football, specifically:

Date	Organisation	In attendance
7 December 2012	Football Coordination Unit Scotland (FoCUS)	Superintendent Stephen McAllister Inspector Marian Maclean
28 November 2012	Football Match Observation (Heart of Midlothian FC versus Celtic FC)	Facilitated by FoCUS
10 January 2013	Scottish Football Association	Stewart Regan
	Scottish Football League	David Longmuir
	Scottish Premier League	Neil Doncaster Ian Blair
19 January 2013	Football Match Observation (Celtic FC versus Heart of Midlothian FC)	Facilitated by FoCUS
27 February 2014	Rangers Football Club	David Martin, Dominic Sharkey

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

31 July 2014	Scottish Football Association	Stewart Regan, Daryl Broadfoot, Andrew McKinlay
	Scottish Professional Football League	Iain Blair Rod McKenzie
31 July 2014	Football Coordination Unit Scotland (FoCUS)	Inspector Marian Maclean Sergeant Neil McLeod

I am aware that the advisory group is keen to meet with both Rangers FC and Celtic FC at boardroom level and is actively pursuing although no meetings have taken place to date. The advisory group has not met with the players' trade unions.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23091&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Man to stand trial over alleged racial abuse of Humza Yousaf

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-30135922>

MSP racist abuse trial date set

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/msp-racist-abuse-trial-date-set.25926120>

Neil Lennon: Sectarian abuse triggered Celtic exit

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/neil-lennon-sectarian-abuse-triggered-celtic-exit-1-3611120>

My grammar school didn't directly encourage the anti-Semitic abuse I received while there, but its culture of one-upmanship did

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/my-grammar-school-didnt-directly-encourage-the-antisemitic-abuse-i-recieved-while-there-but-its-culture-of-oneupmanship-did-9871956.html?origin=internalSearch>

Football boss in race remarks row

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/football-boss-in-race-remarks-row-1.694247>

Wigan chairman accused of anti-Semitism

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/wigan-chairman-accused-of-anti-semitism.25922767>

FA opens investigation into comments made by Wigan owner Dave Whelan

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/21/pfa-investigate-dave-whelan-jewish-chinese-comments>

Jewish board rejects Wigan owner Dave Whelan's 'half-hearted apology'

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/21/dave-whelan-wigan-athletic-kick-it-out>

Dave Whelan: Wigan owner apologises for comments after Malky Mackay appointment but defends himself against anti-Semitism claim

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/dave-whelan-wigan-owner-apologises-for-comments-after-malky-mackay-appointment-but-defends-himself-against-antisemitism-claim-9874393.html?origin=internalSearch>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

'Dave Whelan a racist chairman hiring a racist coach' says Tan

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/football/clubs/cardiff/article4274822.ece>

Dave Whelan accused of antisemitism in new controversy

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/nov/20/wigan-dave-whelan-accused-antisemitism-jewish-people>

Dave Whelan comments leave Jewish body 'outraged' following Malky Mackay hiring at Wigan Athletic

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-2844345/Dave-Whelan-comments-leave-Jewish-body-outraged-following-Malky-Mackay-hiring.html>

What everyday racism tells us about the immigration debate

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/20/everyday-racism-immigration-debate-bigotry-ukip>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon is Scotland's first female First Minister and the first female to lead any of the devolved UK administrations.

Born in Irvine in 1970 and educated at Greenwood Academy, she studied law at the University of Glasgow where she graduated with LLB (Hons) and Diploma in Legal Practice.

Before entering the Scottish Parliament as a regional MSP for Glasgow in 1999 she worked as a solicitor in the Drumchapel Law and Money Advice Centre in Glasgow.

She is currently MSP for Glasgow Southside having been, before boundary changes, MSP for Govan between 2007 and 2011.

In government she served as Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing between May 2007 and September 2012 and then Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities with responsibility for government strategy and the constitution until November 2014. Throughout this period she also served as Deputy First Minister of Scotland.

She became SNP Leader on November 14, 2014 and was sworn in as First Minister on November 20, 2014.

The First Minister lives in Glasgow with her husband Peter Murrell.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/People/Ministers/First-Minister>

New ministerial line-up unveiled

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy – John Swinney

Minister for Business, Energy and Tourism – Fergus Ewing

Minister for Parliamentary Business – Joe Fitzpatrick

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Press Releases *(continued)*

Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities – Keith Brown
Minister for Transport and Islands – Derek Mackay

Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training – Roseanna Cunningham
Minister for Youth and Women’s Employment – Annabelle Ewing

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning - Angela Constance
Minister for Children and Young People – Aileen Campbell
During Ms Campbell’s maternity cover, Fiona McLeod will serve as acting Minister for Children and Young People
Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages – Alasdair Allan

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport – Shona Robison
Minister for Public Health – Maureen Watt
Minister for Sport and Health Improvement – Jamie Hepburn

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners’ Rights – Alex Neil
Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment – Marco Biagi
Minister for Housing and Welfare – Margaret Burgess

Cabinet Secretary for Justice – Michael Matheson
Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs – Paul Wheelhouse

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment – Richard Lochhead
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform – Aileen McLeod

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs – Fiona Hyslop
Minister for Europe and International Development – Humza Yousaf

Law Officers
Lord Advocate – Frank Mulholland
Solicitor General – Lesley Thompson

For full details of each Minister’s responsibilities, see
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-ministerial-line-up-unveiled-1285.aspx>

Parliament Days set to travel across Scotland
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/83860.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Marriage

The following two questions received the same answer

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL2550] To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they will

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

consider making the payment of dowries by brides' families unlawful.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL2604] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to consider introducing legislation in England and Wales similar to India's Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 so as to prohibit the giving or taking of a dowry, and India's Domestic Violence Act 2005 so as to treat demanding a dowry as domestic violence.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government is clear that domestic violence and abuse does not just mean physical violence. It can also involve coercive and controlling behaviour, including dowry abuse and other forms of financial abuse. The cross-Government definition of domestic violence and abuse encompasses, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. This definition is used by Government departments to inform policy development, and other agencies, such as the police, to inform the identification of domestic violence cases.

We have recently consulted on strengthening the law around domestic violence and abuse and are considering our response. Our consideration will include whether there should be a specific offence of domestic abuse and if so, what patterns of behaviour should constitute such abuse.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-30/HL2550/>

Prisons: Ministers of Religion

Sadiq Khan [209537] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prison chaplains there are of each faith.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The number of prison chaplains that were directly employed in the Prison Service of England and Wales as at 30 June 2014 can be found in the table below. The information covers both the public and private sectors. Where directly employed Chaplains are not available religious services are also provided by Chaplains engaged on a sessional basis.

Table: Directly Employed Prison Service Chaplains - as at 30 June 2014

Religion	Headcount
Christian	240
Muslim	100
Sikh	~
Hindu	~
Buddhist	~
Unknown / Others	40
Total	390

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 in line with the department's policy for presenting staffing data. Totals are formed from unrounded parts prior to rounding. For this reason, totals may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

The symbol ~ represents 5 or fewer

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-09-26/209537/>

Prisons: Ministers of Religion

Sadiq Khan [209538] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of (a) adult and (b) youth secure estate establishments have imams.

Reply from Andrew Selous: There were a total of 70 adult prisons which had one or more directly employed Muslim chaplain on 30 June 2014, representing 65% of all adult establishments. 14 establishments in the youth secure estate had one or more directly employed Muslim Chaplain on 30 June 2014, representing

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

93% of the establishments. This information includes both public and private sector establishments.

Access to Muslim Chaplains is more widespread than it appears from these figures. There are 393 imams employed across the prison estate, and the majority of establishments have access to Muslim Chaplains even if they don't have a directly employed Muslim Chaplain attached to the establishment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-09-26/209538/>

Prisons: Ministers of Religion

Sadiq Khan [211257] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prison service investigations there were into prison imams in each year since 2010; and what were the reasons for those investigations and the outcomes of such investigations.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The number of investigations into prison imams completed between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2014 was 13, 9 of which resulted in disciplinary action. Figures have not been provided for individual years as the numbers in each year, other than 2013, are five or fewer. The detail cannot be provided to prevent identification or disclosure relating to individual cases. Similarly, information on the alleged breach of conduct and discipline is not being provided for the same reasons.

There are 100 directly employed and also 120 sessional Muslim Chaplains. All employed Chaplains go through a robust recruitment process. Following a competency based application and panel sift there is a three part board consisting of sermon, role play and panel interview. A Chaplain also requires endorsement by their faith community - for Muslim Chaplains this would be the NOMS Muslim Adviser. Sessional Muslim Chaplains are required to have the appropriate Islamic credentials checked by our Muslim Adviser. A disciplinary investigation for an employed Chaplain follows the same process as that for any other NOMS employee.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-21/211257/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Karl Turner: What steps the Government are taking to identify and safeguard girls at risk of female genital mutilation. [906029]

Reply from the Minister for Crime Prevention (Lynne Featherstone): Female genital mutilation is an extremely harmful practice that we are committed to tackling. On 22 July, the Prime Minister hosted the UK's first girls summit, demonstrating the Government's commitment to tackling FGM here and overseas. At the summit, the UK announced an unprecedented package of measures to tackle FGM, including several commitments to strengthen the law, improve the law enforcement response, support front-line professionals and work with communities to prevent abuse.

Karl Turner: I thank the Minister and the Home Secretary for their work to tackle FGM, and I welcome the introduction of protection orders, but may I ask whether legal aid will be available in civil proceedings where people seek protection through the courts?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: We are currently looking at that. Of course, legal aid is available for domestic violence, but we are looking at it specifically in relation to FGM.

Barry Sheerman: I want to push the Minister and set this point in a broader context. There are worrying minorities in this country that do not believe in equal rights for women— it is not just FGM, but a number of other awful things that happen to women. Is

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

it not time that women in this country, especially new immigrants, knew their rights and protections under the law?

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: I could not agree more, and that is why we are working closely across government and in communities to push this information down into those communities. As the hon. Gentleman will appreciate, some of these communities are particularly closed off, which makes it even more imperative to work with their members to take these messages in, including in schools and through front-line professionals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141117/debtext/141117-0001.htm#1411172000018>

Press Release

PM call with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-nicola-sturgeon-first-minister-of-scotland>

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Other News

Police Scotland launches 'Youth Advisory Panel'

<http://www.youngscot.net/news/police-scotland-launches-%E2%80%98youth-advisory-panel'.aspx>

Edinburgh's Bright Choices honour abuse project wins £800k lottery cash

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-30133595>

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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>

**** Community Empowerment Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/77926.aspx>

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9638&i=87540>

Criminal Justice Bill

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

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 Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141117-0001.htm#1411179000440>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141117-0002.htm#14111724000074>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Draft guidance relating to equality and human rights implications for the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (closing date 28 November 2014)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/devolved-authorities/commission-scotland/consultation-draft-guidance-relating-equality-and-human-rights-implications-marriage-and-civil>

Review of the shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland (closing date 5 December 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359315/Call_for_evidence_FINAL.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission Litigation strategy survey (closing date 12 December 2014)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/litigation-strategy-survey?wssl=1>

** **Devolution (Further Powers) Committee Survey** (closing date 31 December 2014)

This consultation is open to people who were aged 16 or 17, and eligible to vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum, on 18 September 2014

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XVXMYL>

Consultations (continued)

Community Empowerment Bill (no closing date given)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVqICS_Rgro&feature=youtu.be

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

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

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

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

Inquiry into the recruitment and appointment practices on company boards
(no closing date given)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/our-legal-work/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-recruitment-and-appointment-practices-company-boards>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Scottish Government Equality Fund

Closing date 5 December 2014

Open to applications from voluntary organisations who are registered with OSCR or organisations who are working towards becoming an incorporated body, and who work across the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. The Fund is worth up to £3 million and there is no upper limit on the amount that can be applied for.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/equality-fund/2015-16>

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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/>

 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/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Parliament Day

24 November 2014 in Fort William

The Presiding Officer and two Committees, the Local Government and Regeneration Committee and the Devolution (Further Powers) Committee, will undertake a series of meetings with local organisations and groups as well as speaking to 16 and 17 year olds who recently voted in the referendum. The Local Government and Regeneration Committee will also hold a formal evidence session where it will take evidence on the Community Empowerment Bill. For information see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/83412.aspx>

Working with Interpreters

3 December 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

18 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

14 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Essentials of Asylum

9 December 2014 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

28 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

6 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide information about the UK asylum process, including the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee, asylum support, and rights and entitlements. For information contact Martha Harding

martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children and Young People

16th (9.30-4.30pm) & 17th (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

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

13 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

18 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

25 February 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

3 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

15 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 May 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Discrimination Law in 2015

26 January 2015 in Glasgow

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference to explore recent changes in employment law and equal opportunities, and their practical implications. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/lm5cgyd>

Supporting Refugee Women

4 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of the issues and legal systems impact specifically on refugee women. This includes discussing issues of FGM and sexual violence. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage

11 February 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid seminar to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see <http://tinyurl.com/ovxofgs>.

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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/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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://onescotland.org/>

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