

*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 4th January 2015, the House of Commons until 5th January, and the House of Lords until 6th January 2015. The next issue of MEMO will be on 11th January.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S4M-11884 Christina McKelvie: Commitment to Tackling Human Trafficking—That the Parliament commends the Scottish Government on introducing, for the first time in the history of the Parliament, specific legislation to address the issue of human trafficking and exploitation through slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour; commends the government on this commitment; understands that the legislation will give adults the right to access the immediate support that is already provided to child victims and will provide clearer guidance for prosecutors; further understands that it will make a requirement for the Scottish Ministers to publish an anti-trafficking and exploitation

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

strategy; believes that the legislation will be one step on the way to ridding Scotland of human trafficking, which, although considered an abhorrent crime that destroys lives, often takes place hidden from public view, and urges members to support the legislation.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11884&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-11943 Jean Urquhart: Positive Action in Housing's Annual Winter Destitution Surgery—That the Parliament commends Positive Action in Housing on what it sees as the group's hard work in running its 2014 Annual Winter Destitution Surgery and in providing vital support for people most in need; believes that the surgery provided vital support to 220 destitute asylum seekers and people at risk of hunger or severe poverty; notes that this included the distribution of food packs, hygiene packs, food, clothes and toys for its service users and their dependants as well as emergency crisis payments and essential travel vouchers; commends the efforts of all of the volunteers, staff and supporters of Positive Action in Housing in running the surgery and its fortnightly destitution surgeries, which will start again in January 2015; understands that 2014 saw a 12% increase in the number of people seeking help from Positive Action in Housing, and calls for more action to support the work of it and the other charities that provide essential services for destitute families and people.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11943&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Population

Lord Laird [HL2541] To ask Her Majesty's Government what policies they have to reduce the population size of the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: We are clear that uncontrolled immigration makes it difficult to maintain social cohesion, puts pressure on public services and can drive down wages for people on low incomes.

That is why across government we are working hard to bring net migration down and address the factors which draw people to the UK for the wrong reasons. This government has clamped down on nearly 800 bogus colleges, slashed 45,000 visas from the further education route; and cut family visas by nearly a third since it came to power. Our reforms have cut net migration from outside the EU by nearly a quarter since 2010 – close to levels not seen since the late 1990s.

Our reforms have also made it more difficult for EU migrants to claim benefits in the UK and, through the landmark Immigration Act, made it tougher for illegal immigrants to remain by restricting access to work, housing, benefits, healthcare, bank accounts and driving licences and making it easier to remove those who have no right to be here by reducing the number of appeals.

On 28 November the Prime Minister made a speech in which he set out a number of measures a future Conservative Government would take to address EU migration to the UK. The measures proposed include a four year residency requirement before an EU national can access in-work benefits or social housing in the UK, the removal of child benefit for non-resident children of EU nationals, and stronger powers to deport EU criminals and tackle abuse.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-30/HL2541/>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Nationality

Lord Laird [HL3429] To ask Her Majesty's Government how quickly a foreign national can gain British citizenship; what are the time spans involved in France, Italy, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands; and what assessment they have made of new citizens granted nationality in other European Union countries using that nationality to access the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: An individual naturalising as a British citizen is required to have been lawfully resident in the UK for a minimum of five years, with the last year of residence free of time restrictions, or three years if the spouse of a British citizen.

Every country within the EU has the right to decide its own citizenship laws, but we would object if another Member State operated its processes in a way that could lead to abuse of free movement rights. The Government is clear that EU citizens who benefit from the right to free movement must adhere to the responsibilities this brings with it. The Government does not tolerate the abuse of free movement rights and is working at a domestic level and with other member states to tackle such abuse.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3429/>

Migration

Lord Kilclooney [HL3240] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the most recent figures for migration for each of the 12 months up to June 2014; how many were emigrants from the United Kingdom; how many were immigrants from the European Union; how many were immigrants from non-European Union countries; and whether the latter figure has increased compared to 12 months ago.

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

Nick Vaughan (Director, National Accounts & Economic Statistics, Office for National Statistics): Long-term international migration estimates are published quarterly, monthly breakdowns of these estimates are not produced. These estimates are published with a margin of error that refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample survey. The margins of error around central estimates are shown in brackets.

The latest (provisional) estimates published on 27 November 2014 are for the year ending June 2014. Net migration was 260,000 with a margin of error of +/-39,000. The emigration estimate from the UK was 323,000 (+/- 22,000), of which an estimated 133,000 (+/- 13,000) were British citizens.

The immigration estimate to the UK was 583,000, with a margin of error of (+/- 32,000), of which an estimated 228,000 (+/- 23,000) were EU citizens (excluding British citizens) and 272,000 (+/- 18,000) were non-EU citizens. The estimate for non-EU citizens for the year ending June 2014 was a statistically significant increase of 30,000 compared to the estimate of 242,000 (+/- 16,000) for the year ending June 2013.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3240/>

Passports

Lord Marlesford [HL3003] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British passports have been issued to previously non-British citizens in each of the last 10 years.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Records are not held centrally in the formats requested. A passport may be subject to confiscation by police and authorised persons under statutory provisions in relation the investigation of crime or in connection with immigration matters. That would be an operational decision for the agency concerned and figures are not collated centrally. People may be refused a British passport or may have their existing passport withdrawn on a number of grounds, including that their grant or continued enjoyment of a passport is contrary to the public interest. The number of passports revoked by HMPO in each of the last five years is as follows:

2009: 512
2010: 646
2011: 662
2012: 1,521
2013: 1,174

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-19/HL3003/>

Immigration Controls

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL3247] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to deal with net immigration; and whether they intend to revise their targets.

Reply from Lord Bates: We are building an immigration system that is fair to British citizens and legitimate migrants, that is tough on those who abuse the system or flout the law, and that ensures people come to the UK for the right reasons – to work hard and contribute to our economy and society.

We have cut net migration from outside the EU by nearly a quarter since 2010 – close to levels not seen since the late 1990s. We have also clamped down on nearly 800 illicit colleges, reduced 45,000 visas from the further education route; and cut family visas by nearly a third since it came to power.

Our reforms have also made it more difficult for EU migrants to claim benefits in the UK and, through the landmark Immigration Act, made it tougher for illegal immigrants to remain by restricting access to work, housing, benefits, healthcare, bank accounts and driving licences and making it easier to remove those who have no right to be here by reducing the number of appeals.

The Government has reformed benefits, healthcare and housing rules to make them among the tightest in Europe and we continue to see an increase in the number of British citizens in work. In the past, the majority of growth in employment was taken up by foreign nationals; in the last year, two-thirds of it was accounted for by UK nationals. This shows that our immigration policy benefits UK nationals first while still attracting skilled migrants needed by British business. However there is more to be done. The Prime Minister set out further measures to reduce migration, including EU migration, in his immigration speech delivered on 28 November.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3247/>

Immigration Controls

Paul Blomfield [218487] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph 4 of page 1 of her Department's publication, Changes to Family Migration Rules Impact Assessment, published on 12 June 2012, if she will ensure that the Government's review of family migration rules planned for April 2015 takes into account the recommendations of the APPG on Migration's inquiry into family migration.

Reply from James Brokehshire: New Family Migration Rules were implemented

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

on 9 July 2012 to prevent burdens on the taxpayer, promote integration and tackle abuse. We have kept those rules under regular review and have made a number of adjustments to them in light of feedback on their operation and impact, including from Parliamentarians, the public, legal representatives and Home Office staff. We studied the report of the APPG on Migration's inquiry into family migration when this was published in June 2013. This ongoing review process will continue in April 2015 and will also take into account the findings of the courts on the new policies. This includes the July 2014 judgment of the Court of Appeal in MM and Others, which upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income threshold under the new Family Migration Rules and found that it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those affected and the community in general.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218487/>

Immigration

Richard Burden [217816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the minimum earnings threshold needed for a spouse to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK on (a) people on low incomes and (b) family life.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is right that family migrants coming to settle in the UK and their sponsor should be able to support themselves and any dependants. The minimum income threshold under the family Immigration Rules for sponsoring a non-European Economic Area national spouse or partner and any dependent children to come to or remain in the UK aims to prevent burdens on the taxpayer and promote integration. Its level reflects advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on the income which means a family settled in the UK will generally cease to be able to access income-related benefits. Under the minimum probationary period of 5 years before a spouse or partner can apply for settlement under the new family Rules implemented on 9 July 2012, applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK which have to meet the minimum income threshold will not be made before 2017. In its 11 July 2014 judgment in MM and Others the Court of Appeal upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income threshold and found that it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those affected and the community in general.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217816/>

Immigration

Lord Turnberg [HL3055] To ask Her Majesty's Government what calculations they have made of the fiscal impact of immigration into the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Deighton: In order to inform policy making, the government reviews and notes the wider evidence on the economic and fiscal impacts of immigration on an ongoing basis. This evidence base includes the wider academic literature, and a range of reports commissioned or produced by the government looking at specific impacts, for example those produced by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. In addition, policies that influence migration are assessed using the government's impact assessment process which models the economic impact of the policy change using assumptions based on a range of evidence and the academic literature. Home Office Impact Assessments are published on gov.uk.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-21/HL3055/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration

Lord Turnberg [HL3816] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Deighton on 5 December (HL3055), whether they have published an impact assessment on the fiscal impact of immigration into the United Kingdom since 2008.

Reply from Lord Deighton: The government has not published an impact assessment on the fiscal impact of immigration into the United Kingdom since 2008. The fiscal impacts of migration are considered in impact assessments published by the government where appropriate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-16/HL3816/>

English Language: Education

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3222] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve English language education for young asylum seekers in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Nash: Education and social care are devolved matters. In England, schools should provide appropriate support for pupils whose first language is not English, including asylum seeking children. Schools are best placed to assess the levels of support required by their pupils, taking into account their age and needs. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children become part of the care system and are entitled to the same support and services from the local authority as other looked-after children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3222/>

Entry Clearances: English Language

Graham Brady [218042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what controls are in place to prevent personation by people sitting English language tests in connection with visa applications for travel to the UK; and if she will estimate the proportion of people who pass such tests who do so as a result of personation.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The licence with secure English language testing providers is clear that providers must put measures in place to combat abuse and any concerns regarding fraud or abuse should be reported to the Home Office.

Over the lifetime of the licence, the Home Office has introduced a range of improvements including a more secure online verification system; extra identity and security checks on candidates; and further measures to ensure the test centres are secure. In addition this Government introduced a requirement that a visa officer must be satisfied that an applicant is a genuine student, tested at interview, helping to prevent abuse of the student visa system.

The Home Office will not hesitate to take action where abuse is identified.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-10/218042/>

NHS: Interpreters

Nick de Bois [216366] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues to the NHS on its obligation to provide interpreter services.

Reply from Norman Lamb: The provision of language support, including interpretation and translation, is driven by the requirement for all National Health Service organisations to comply with the public sector equality duty. As public sector organisations, NHS bodies have a duty to ensure that all people have

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

equal access to the information and services that they provide.

The provision of interpretation and translation services by NHS bodies is a matter for local determination based on the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 also requires those who provide a service to the public or a section of the public to make a 'reasonable adjustment' so that disabled people are not placed at a 'substantial disadvantage' compared to non-disabled people, this includes communication and provision of information.

As part of their commitment to improving the experience of patients using NHS services, empowering people to be equal partners in their own care and help reduce unacceptable variation in the quality of reasonable adjustments,

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-28/216366/>

Courts: Interpreters

Nick de Bois [216364] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what guidance his Department has issued to courts on their obligation to provide interpreter services.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: Guidance is available to all court staff which clearly outlines the circumstances under which the Department is obliged to provide interpreter services. The EU Right to Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings Directive require the criminal courts to take every reasonable step to identify whether a defendant needs interpretation.

The interpreting contract was introduced to tackle the inefficiencies and inconsistencies in the previous system. The contract has delivered significant improvements so far and we now have a system that is robust, sustainable and able to deliver a quality service at an affordable level. As a result of the contract, we have spent £27m less in the first two years it has been running, and it continues to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-28/216364/>

Local Government: Interpreters

Nick de Bois [216363] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on their obligation to provide interpreter services.

Reply from Stephen Williams: In March 2013, my Department published new guidance for local authorities outlining how councils should stop translating and interpreting into foreign languages. As outlined in the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 March 2013, *Official Report*, Column 5WS, such interpretation and translation: weakens integration; discourages communities from learning English; undermines rather than strengthens equality goals; harms community relations; and is an expensive waste of taxpayers' money at a time when councils need to be making sensible savings.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-28/216363/>

Police: Interpreters

Nick de Bois [216365] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department issues to police forces on their obligation to provide interpreter services.

Reply from Mike Penning: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code of

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Practice C (on the Detention, Treatment and Questioning of Persons by Police Officers) sets out the obligations of chief officers in respect of interpretation and translation services. Please refer to Section 13 of PACE in particular.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-28/216365/>

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL3269] To ask Her Majesty's Government what effect they expect the Prime Minister's proposals for curbs on welfare benefits for European Union migrants to have if implemented.

Reply from Lord Freud: In his speech on 28 November, the Prime Minister announced a number of proposals to restrict EU migrants' access to welfare benefits. He made clear that the intention of his proposals was to make the immigration system fairer and reduce the current high level of migration from within the EU into the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-01/HL3269/>

Entry Clearances: Married People

Lord Malesford [HL3692] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in considering visa applications from outside the European Union, they differentiate between applicants who are monogamous or polygamous wives of United Kingdom residents; and whether they differentiate between such applicants who are intended monogamous or polygamous wives.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is government policy not to allow the formation of polygamous households in the UK. Section 2 of the Immigration Act 1988 and the Immigration Rules prevent a UK resident from sponsoring a second or subsequent non-European Economic Area national spouse to come or remain here, if another person has already been admitted as his or her spouse and the marriage has not been dissolved.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-12/HL3692/>

Marriage of Convenience

David Simpson [215733] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of sham marriages in the UK.

Reply from James Brokehshire: Sham marriages are an abuse of our marriage laws by those seeking to circumvent immigration controls. We have significantly increased our enforcement activity against sham marriages, with 1,335 interventions in 2013-14, resulting in 840 arrests and 294 removals.

From 2 March 2015, Part 4 of the Immigration Act 2014 will provide important new powers to tackle sham marriages and civil partnerships. Subject to Parliamentary approval of the necessary secondary legislation, this will include a new referral and investigation scheme for proposed marriages and civil partnerships across the UK involving a non-European Economic Area national who could benefit in immigration terms.

This will give the Home Office more time and scope to identify and investigate suspected sham marriages and civil partnerships and to take effective enforcement or casework action. Further information is contained in my Written Statement on 24 November 2014, Columns 21-22WS.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

To read the written statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141124/wmstext/141124m0001.htm#1411241000004>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215733/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [216746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what changes relating to overseas students her Department has made to the points-based immigration system since May 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: This Government has overhauled Tier 4 of the Points-Based System with a package of measures to tackle the widespread abuse that was occurring when we inherited it in May 2010, while still attracting genuine students.

We have cracked down on bogus colleges by making the Tier 4 sponsorship system more rigorous, and this has led to the removal of nearly 800 colleges from the Tier 4 sponsor register since 2011. In order to recruit international students, education institutions must demonstrate education quality, by undergoing an assessment of their education standards by an independent inspectorate, and a good track record of immigration compliance. Sponsors must make basic checks on students to ensure that they are genuine students. We have incentivised them to do this by reducing to 10% the permitted visa refusal rate from 1 November 2014. If more than 1 in 10 of a sponsor's prospective students are refused a visa, they will lose their Tier 4 licence.

We have made it more difficult for non-genuine students to abuse the system. They must demonstrate that they are a genuine student in a credibility interview, meet tougher English language and maintenance requirements and have a proven academic track record. We have introduced a maximum time limit on the period of study in the UK and if a student wants to undertake further study, they must show that this is academic progress. We have also restricted the right to work while studying for students at universities and publicly funded further education colleges, and removed them altogether for students at private colleges, where abuse was greatest.

We have ensured that the UK's university sector remains attractive to international students - they can use their own method to determine their student's English language proficiency, their students can work whilst studying here, postgraduates can bring dependants and graduates can stay on and work if they can secure a graduate level job. We have doubled the number of places on the Graduate Entrepreneur scheme to 2,000, and created a new visa for graduates wishing to undertake a corporate internship, or professional training related to their degree. We also allow all students who have completed a PhD to stay in the UK for an additional year to work, gain experience in their chosen field, or set up as an entrepreneur.

The latest statistics show that this approach is working – applications for study visas for university students have increased by 2% in the year ending September 2014, with a 4% increase for those with an offer from a Russell Group university. Whilst applications for study visas for further education – where the abuse was greatest – have fallen by 13% over the same period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-02/216746/>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Overseas Students

The following three questions all received the same answer

Jim Cunningham [216715] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many non-EU students came to the UK to study in the last year.

Jim Cunningham [216716] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many EU students came to study in the UK in the last year.

Jim Cunningham [216717] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many non-EU students remained in the UK for more than one year after the completion of their studies.

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

Peter Fullerton (Director, Data Collection, Office for National Statistics): The latest provisional estimates are for the year ending June 2014 and show that 121,000 non-EU citizens immigrated to the UK for formal study, with a margin of error of +/- 13,000. In the same period, 40,000 EU citizens immigrated to the UK for formal study, with a margin of error of +/- 9,000.

The estimates are derived from the International Passenger Survey, which is a continuous voluntary sample survey conducted by ONS at the major air and sea ports and at the Channel Tunnel. The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample survey.

It is not possible from available data sources to provide an estimate of how many non-EU students remained in the UK for more than one year after the completion of their studies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-01/216715/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-01/216716/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-01/216717/>

Immigration

Jim Cunningham [216712] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the reasons for entry of non-EU migrants were in the last five years; and how many such migrants entered for each such reason.

Reply from Rob Wilson The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Peter Fullerton (Director, Data Collection, Office for National Statistics): Table 1 shows final estimates of the reason for immigration for non-EU migrants for the last five calendar years (2009-2013). The estimates are taken from the International Passenger Survey and are published in the following table:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/long-term-international-migration/2013/table-3-08.xls>

Estimates are shown in the table alongside their margin of error. This refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample survey.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-01/216712/>

Immigration Controls

Lord Morrow [HL3299] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

by Lord Bates on 20 November (HL2506), how many people were permitted to enter the United Kingdom after declaring previous convictions in each of the last four years; and what specific offences or penalties result in an automatic bar to entry.

Reply from Lord Bates: To obtain the number of people who were permitted to enter the UK after declaring a previous conviction, could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

A non-EEA national who is sentenced to a period of imprisonment of 4 years or more in the UK or overseas will be automatically be refused entry indefinitely. Those sentenced to less than 4 years will be refused entry for a period of 5 or 10 years, depending on the length of their sentence. There are also discretionary grounds for refusal for anyone who is considered to be non-conducive to the public good based on character, conduct or associations, persistent offenders or those who have committed offences causing serious harm.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-01/HL3299/>

Housing Benefit (Migrant Workers)

Clive Betts: What estimate has [the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions] made of his Department's expenditure on in-work housing benefit for migrant workers from the European economic area who have arrived in the UK within the last (a) six, (b) 12 and (c) 24 months. [906484]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr Iain Duncan Smith): The Government inherited a system that did not record the nationality of benefit recipients—we are changing that—and as a result local authorities currently hold limited data on housing benefit. However, based on the latest figures we have been able to glean, we estimate that some 420,000 EU families have been claiming child benefit at a cost of £650 million; and 317,000 EU citizens are claiming tax credits at a cost of £2.2 billion.

Clive Betts: Many of my constituents express a real sense of grievance when people come to this country and claim benefits to which they have not contributed. It is now the policy of the Government—and, indeed, of the Opposition—that before people can claim unemployment-related benefits, they should have to work in this country for a longer period. Should a similar principle apply to the claiming of housing benefit?

Reply from Duncan Smith: In a sense, I agree with the hon. Gentleman. We have already introduced restrictions, right now, on access to benefits, tightening up the time scales so that people cannot get them for the first three months until they prove they are, in fact, resident here, and then only for three months after that. We have also stopped such people claiming housing benefit, but the hon. Gentleman will know that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has announced that we will want to go much further and ensure that people cannot claim benefits for four years until they can prove to have been resident here.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141208/debtext/141208-0001.htm#1412082000021>

Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL3209] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the percentage of those Muslim imams admitted to the United Kingdom who cannot speak English; and what assessment they have made of the content of their teachings.

Reply from Lord Bates: There are three routes of entry to the UK for religious workers and ministers of religion. Those coming for longer term roles under Tier 2 of the Points Based System are required to demonstrate that they are proficient in

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

English at level B2 (upper intermediate level) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

No assessment of English language is required for religious workers coming to fill temporary positions under Tier 5 of the Points Based System. Similarly those entering at short term visitors are not required to demonstrate proficiency in English language. We are actively reviewing the Immigration Rules for religious routes of entry including English language requirements.

This Government is committed to preventing the entry into the UK of individuals whose behaviours and views are not conducive to shared values such as democracy, the rule of law and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. Since May 2010, the Home Secretary has excluded 84 preachers of hate. The Home Secretary uses these powers when justified and based on all available evidence.

Where appropriate, this may include public statements and written material.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3209/>

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Rehman Chishti [218322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) target time taken between the completion of an immigration tribunal and the implementation of that tribunal's decision is.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested in part (a) covers a broad range of casetypes and is not held centrally for in country cases. It could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. For international appeals the average time for allowed appeals to be implemented from January 2014 to September 2014 was 45 calendar days.

The Home Office has 14 days to consider whether to appeal an allowed First-tier or Upper Tribunal decision (although this can be longer in some Upper Tribunal decisions where the last avenue to appeal is direct to the Court of Appeal).

The relevant unit responsible for implementation will be notified once a decision has been made not to appeal. There are currently no set targets in place governing implementation of appeals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218322/>

Immigration and Asylum

Andrew Turner: What proportion of immigration and asylum appeals were made on the grounds of alleged breaches of the Human Rights Act 1998 in the last five years. [906634]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Shailesh Vara): In 2009-10, 10% of recorded appeals, lodged from inside the UK, raised human rights grounds; in 2010-11 the proportion was 28%; in the last three years the proportion has been 34%. Information is not available for appeals lodged from outside of the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141216/debtext/141216-0001.htm#14121635000011>

Asylum

Lord Hylton [HL3483] To ask Her Majesty's Government what improvements to the procedures of the Detained Fast Track for the better protection of applicants they have introduced since the decision of the High Court on 9 July 2014.

Reply from Lord Bates: In July 2014 the High Court upheld the principle of a Detained Fast Track (DFT) process as lawful. However, the Court found that the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

DFT process as operated carried an “unacceptable risk of unfairness” with regard to vulnerable applicants within the system. This was primarily because they were not guaranteed access to lawyers sufficiently soon after induction to enable instructions to be taken and advice to be given before the substantive interview. The Home Office took immediate steps to address this and other criticisms of the process.

Screening: The judgment observed that the current asylum screening process did not do enough to identify and exclude from DFT vulnerable people or those with particularly complex claims. We have since changed the questions asked in the screening interview to help address this issue and there is an ongoing review of the screening process that incorporates discussions and input from external stakeholders.

Detention Centre Rule 35: Detention Centre Rule 35 requires doctors in immigration removal centres to issue reports to Home Office officials with responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing detention, if they have concerns about issues of particular vulnerability. Those issues include particular ill-health, suicide risk and concerns that the detainee may have been a victim of torture. Whilst acknowledging that a Rule 35 report issued by a medical practitioner relating to possible torture concerns may sometimes reflect only the detainee’s own claim and so not require automatic release, the judgment nonetheless concluded that the evidence did not show the process to operate as well as it should.

Releases can and do result from Rule 35 reports and a recent sampling exercise has reconfirmed this position and identified some other issues for improvement. We have already taken steps to improve awareness of existing process requirements. We have consulted external partners on improvements to the operation of Rule 35 and further measures will be introduced in the coming months to ensure that the process operates as effectively as possible.

Access to legal representation: The judgment stated that in some cases, legal representatives were allocated to asylum applicants too late in the DFT process, which was considered significant enough to carry a high risk of unfairness for those who may be vulnerable. On the 14th and 15th of July the Home Office implemented new arrangements, that ensured that legal representatives were allocated to asylum claimants that require them (around 50% of asylum claimants arrive with a lawyer already) on the day of induction to DFT or, where that is not possible, no later than 2 working days after induction. In addition we are now ensuring that there are 4 clear working days between the allocation of a lawyer and the asylum interview except where the asylum claimant and lawyer advise that they want an earlier interview.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3483/>

Asylum

David Hanson [217249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when country guidance was last reviewed for each country from which there are asylum claims since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Specific guidance is not produced on every country from which there are asylum claims. It is only produced in respect of the countries which attract most applications. Guidance is provided where necessary on a case by case basis in respect of the other countries.

To streamline the process for the provision of country information and policy guidance, the existing country of origin information reports and operational

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

guidance notes are being phased out and replaced by separate thematic documents providing both country information and guidance on the most common categories of claim from the countries which attract the most applications.

The dates when the most recent guidance was issued for each of the countries concerned is set out in the table below. Copies of the guidance are all available on the government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/country-information-and-guidance>

To read the table see

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/168055/original/PQ217249%20%20Table.doc>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-04/217249/>

Asylum

Philip Davies [214624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of claims for asylum were successful in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the number of asylum initial decisions for main applicants in each of the last five years.

Grant rates for asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or other grants of stay for main applicants, 2009 to 2013(1)(2)	
Year	% Granted
2009	28%
2010	26%
2011	33%
2012	36%
2013	37%

(1) Figures for 2013 are provisional.

(2) Granted include grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave, leave to remain under family life or private life rules, leave outside the rules and UASC leave.

Asylum: Homosexuality

Lord Scriven [HL3390] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will now take in the light of the judgment of the European Court of Justice on 2 December that refugees who claim asylum on the ground that they are homosexual should not have to undergo tests to prove it, that refusal to answer questions about their personal circumstances is not sufficient reason to reject their credibility, and that an applicant's failure to declare their homosexuality from the start of the asylum process is also not ground for rejection.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government is carefully considering the full detail of the judgment but our initial view is that the UK's approach to considering asylum claims based on the grounds of sexual orientation is in line with the ruling. The UK has never required individuals to undergo tests in order to establish their sexuality.

Existing guidance, which was drawn up in conjunction with the UK Lesbian and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Gay Immigration Group, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Stonewall, is clear that questions of a sexually explicit nature should not usually be asked. Late declaration of homosexuality is not in itself a reason for refusal but needs to be explained. The Government will shortly be publishing a revised version of its guidance and will ensure that the judgment is fully reflected in it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-03/HL3390/>

Asylum: Syria

Margaret Ritchie [217214] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to make Syrian refugees who have relatives in the UK aware of the options for family reunification.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Recognised refugees and those granted Humanitarian Protection in the UK are advised about family reunion provisions as part of the information they receive with the decision on their asylum claim. Details on how to apply are also available on the Home Office website.

The UK also operates the Mandate refugee scheme which provides a resettlement route for individual refugees who have been recognised by UNHCR and have close family ties with the UK. The UK is only able to consider resettlement applications from refugees who have been referred to us by UNHCR.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-04/217214/>

Resettlement of Vulnerable Syrian Refugees

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Home Secretary to make a statement about the resettlement of vulnerable Syria refugees.

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

The whole House shares deep concern about the continuing situation in Syria, the suffering and hardship it is causing for millions of refugees, and the enormous strain it is placing on the region. With 3.2 million people displaced into Syria's neighbouring countries and millions more in need within Syria itself, this Government believe it is right to focus efforts on substantial aid to help the large numbers of people who remain. This is a crisis of international proportions. Alleviating the suffering and seeking an end to the conflict are the best ways to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of Syrian refugees and their host countries. ...

Compared with aid, resettlement can only ever help a minority. We do, however, recognise that there are some particularly vulnerable people who cannot be supported effectively in the region, which was why earlier this year we launched the Syrian vulnerable persons relocation scheme to provide sanctuary for those displaced Syrians who are most at risk. The VPR scheme is the first resettlement programme run by the UK to target support for refugees specifically on the basis of their vulnerability. It is prioritising women and children at risk, people in need of medical care, and the survivors of torture and violence.

It is right that our resettlement efforts focus on the most vulnerable refugees, rather than our operating any form of crude quota system. Arrivals under the scheme so far have included a number of children and adults with very severe medical needs who could not access the treatment they needed in the region. The Government have committed to helping several hundred people over three years, and that is exactly what we are doing. Between March and September, 90 people were granted humanitarian protection in the UK under the scheme. We continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

identify the most vulnerable cases displaced by the conflict in Syria and to relocate them to the UK. This is, of course, in addition to the many other Syrian asylum claims that we consider under our normal rules. Since the crisis began in 2011, we have granted asylum or other forms of leave to more than 3,400 Syrian nationals.

Resettlement can make a real difference to the lives of refugees who can be supported effectively only outside the region. I am delighted to see those arriving under the scheme settling into their new homes and receiving the care that they need, but we must not lose sight of the millions of Syrians who remain in the region. Our primary focus was and still is the provision of humanitarian assistance and aid to displaced people both within Syria and in its neighbouring countries. Continuing our efforts to help them through aid must remain our highest priority.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141210/debtext/141210-0001.htm#1412102800001>

Asylum: Syria

Nigel Dodds [216960] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees have arrived in the UK following the decision to allow the resettlement of such refugees in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the year ending September 2014, a total of 90 people were granted Humanitarian Protection under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of people granted Humanitarian Protection in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme in Table as_19 (Asylum data table Volume 4) of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics July to September 2014, is available from:

<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/2014-12-03/216960/>

Asylum: Syria

Lady Hermon [217013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will increase the number of Syrian refugees to be re-settled in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme is designed to complement our humanitarian aid efforts and is based on need rather than fulfilling a quota; however, we have said we expect it to help several hundred people over three years, and we remain on track to deliver that commitment. This is in addition to our consideration of asylum claims lodged in the UK under our normal rules. Since the crisis began we have granted protection to more than

3,400 Syrian nationals and their dependants. In addition, the UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, having pledged £700 million, making us the second largest bilateral donor.

However, we strongly believe that we should continue to focus on aid rather than resettlement as the best way for the UK to maximise our impact, and we therefore have no current plans to expand the scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-03/217013/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Paul Flynn [215713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers received financial support in each local authority in England and Wales in (a) 2010 and (b) 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Support may be provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute until their asylum claim is determined. Section 95 support can be provided as both accommodation and subsistence, or accommodation or subsistence only.

The following tables show the number of asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support in each local authority in England and Wales as at the end of December 2010 and end of September 2014.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of section 95 support, broken down by Local Authority, are published on a quarterly basis by the Home Office in Table as_16_q of the Immigration Statistics release .The latest publication is available on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

To read the very lengthy table see

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/164413/original/PQ%20215713%20Table%20v4.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215713/>

Asylum: Finance

The following two questions both received the same answer.

Lord Hylton [HL3485] To ask Her Majesty's Government what help they are providing, or planning to provide, for asylum applicants who lose financial support when their initial application is rejected but who nevertheless wish to appeal or to submit a new application.

Lord Hylton [HL3486] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for providing help for asylum seekers who lose financial support when their initial application is rejected but who wish to appeal or submit a new application in cases where they had no legal advice for their initial application.

Reply from Lord Bates: Asylum seekers are supported by the Home Office if they are destitute under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This support continues until all appeal rights have been exhausted and the asylum seeker is either granted leave or the asylum claim refused.

Failed asylum seekers are not usually entitled to support, but where there is a legal or practical obstacle that prevents them from leaving the United Kingdom support is provided under section 4 of the 1999 Act. This includes cases where the person has lodged further submissions which they have asked to be considered as fresh asylum claims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3485/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3486/>

Detention Centres

Sarah Teather [217898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average cost of transferring a person between immigration removal centres is.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has a contract with Tascor in

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

respect of the transfer of immigration detainees between immigration removal centres. This is based on a rate per mile, the detail of which is commercially confidential.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217898/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Alistair Burt [216689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on current investigations by the National Audit Office into the work of Serco at Yarl's Wood detention centre.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office holds no information on any investigations by the National Audit Office (NAO) into the work of Serco at Yarl's Wood detention centre. We have had no formal correspondence with NAO on this subject.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-01/216689/>

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

The following two questions both received the same answer

Andrew Smith [216799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to defer removals of any potential witnesses to the alleged assault which took place on 29 November 2014 at Campsfield House IRC so they are able to give evidence to the police.

Andrew Smith [216800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many potential witnesses to the alleged assault which took place on 29 November 2014 at Campsfield House IRC have since been issued with Removal Directions or Removal Orders/Notices.

Reply from James Brokenshire: An incident took place at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre on Saturday 29 November which resulted in two detainees being subject to control and restraint techniques. The Independent Monitoring Board was made aware of the incident and attended the centre.

During the incident no detainees were injured and nobody required hospital treatment, although an officer at the centre sustained minor injuries. As of 3rd December, no complaints of alleged assault have been made.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-02/216799/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-02/216800/>

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

Andrew Smith [217795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what reports she has received of the police response when called out to an alleged assault at Campsfield House immigration centre on 29 November 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Mitie, the service provider for Campsfield House IRC, was in contact with the police during the protest at the centre. The police were advised of the circumstances of the use of control and restraint. No detainees were injured and nobody required hospital treatment. No complaints of assault have been made to the Home Office as of 10 December.

At her request, Baroness Lister was provided with some background information relating to the protest at Campsfield.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217795/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

Lord Browne of Belmont [HL3397] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many illegal immigrants were deported in (1) August, (2) September, and (3) October.

Reply from Lord Bates: Deportations are a specific subset of enforced removals which are either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good.

The table below shows the total number of enforced removals including deportations from the UK in August and September 2014

Month Enforced removals

August 2014 918

September 2014 872

Total 1790

The table shows data for August and September only. The Home Office produces data in line with published statistics. Presently held published statistics only go to the end of September 2014.

The latest quarterly statistics covers Q3 of 2014 (July-September). The Q3 data does not cover the month of October 2014 requested in the PQ. Q3 data was published on 27th November 2014 and Q4 data (October-December) is due to be published in late February 2015. The February publication date allows Migration Statistics to quality assure our raw removals/departures data in preparation for publication.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-03/HL3397/>

Human Trafficking

Diana Johnson [215706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many human trafficking investigations have been commenced by the National Crime Agency in each of the last five years.

Reply from Karen Bradley: When the National Crime Agency was established on 7 October 2013 eight human trafficking investigations were under way. A further eight have since been commenced. The NCA has also provided specialist support to a further 51 investigations led by other law enforcement agencies involving human trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215706/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Sarah Teather (624) Landlord tenant immigration checks – That this House notes the introduction of the pilot scheme on 1 December 2014 of the requirement for private sector landlords to conduct immigration checks on their potential tenants; believes that the checks will lead to new fees from letting agents to all of Britain's nine million private tenants on moving to conduct these checks; further believes that almost no undocumented migrants will be caught as they will move into illegal tenancies and in doing so will create a new market for illegal and exploitative landlords; is concerned that the checks will encourage discrimination in the lettings process; further believes that it is morally objectionable to remove from any person access to shelter just as it would be to remove access to water or emergency medical care; and calls on the Government to abandon the scheme immediately.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/624>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Early Day Motions (continued)

Paul Flynn (633) Distribution of Asylum Seekers – That this House believes that asylum seekers should be homed widely in the country to assist community assimilation and to share fairly the strains and burdens on services that newcomers create; is astonished that Cardiff has 976 section 95 migrants, double the total in all of South East England outside of London and that Newport has 391, while the constituency of the Home Secretary has one and those of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister have none; and calls on hon. Members to encourage their areas to accept their responsibilities and welcome at least the average total of migrants homed elsewhere.
<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/633>

Press Releases

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill published

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Human-Trafficking-and-Exploitation-Bill-published-135c.aspx>

Solicitor General welcomes Bill for new human trafficking law

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/latest-news-from-copfs/932-new-law-to-combat-human-trafficking-introduced>

Scottish minister urges UK government to accept more Syrian refugees

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scottish-minister-urges-UK-government-to-accept-more-Syrian-refugees-130c.aspx>

“UK must not abdicate responsibility” - Hyslop

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/-UK-must-not-abdicate-responsibility-Hyslop-1305.aspx>

Court of Justice of the European Union clarifies the extent of the right of illegally staying third-country nationals to be heard

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2014-12/cp140174en.pdf>

Migrants deserve respect, safety and dignity

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Migrantsdeserverespectsafetyanddignity.aspx>

Refugees' needs must be at the heart of any future accommodation plans

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2539_refugees_needs_must_be_at_the_heart_of_any_future_accommodation_plans

New Publications

Where third-country nationals hold a ‘residence card of a family member of a Union citizen’, the United Kingdom cannot make their right of entry subject to the requirement that they must first obtain a visa

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2014-12/cp140182en.pdf>

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: annual report 2013 to 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387836/ICI_Annual_report_2013-14_-_FINAL_web_V2_.pdf

An Inspection of Nationality Casework

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Nationality-Report-web.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

An inspection of visa interviewing

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388044/An_Inspection_of_Visa_Interviewing_Final_web_.pdf

Home Office response to 'An Inspection of Visa Interviewing' report

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388059/2014-12-15_HO_response_to_ICI_inspection_of_visa_interviewing.pdf

An inspection of overstayers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387908/Overstayers_Report_FINAL_web_.pdf

Response to 'An Inspection of Overstayers' report

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388053/2014-12-15_HO_response_to_ICI_overstayers_report.pdf

Response to an inspection of immigration enforcement activity in London and the West Midlands (Operation Nexus)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382542/2014_12_04_Home_Office_response_to_ICI_Operation_Nexus_report.pdf

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388353/asylum-oct2014.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388340/children-detention-nov2014.ods

Home Office not Scrutinising British Nationality Applications Appropriately

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/home-office-not-scrutinising-british-nationality-applications-appropriately/>

News

Human trafficking: Offenders face life imprisonment

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-30444403>

Life sentence for human trafficking

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/life-sentence-for-human-trafficking-1.733445>

Labour pledges 'stronger' criminal checks on migrants

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30468057>

Action call on asylum seeker homes

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/action-call-on-asylum-seeker-homes-1.735533>

SNP calls on Home Office to find quality new accommodation for Glasgow asylum seekers before current housing is demolished

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-calls-home-office-find-4805373>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Legal aid guidance ruled unlawful

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/legal-aid-guidance-ruled-unlawful-1.737732>

Legal aid guidance on deportation cases ruled unlawful by appeal court

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4297894.ece>

Legal aid restrictions on deportation cases are unlawful, court confirms

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/dec/15/legal-aid-restriction-deportation-cases-unlawful-court-confirms-cuts>

G4S guards cleared over Jimmy Mubenga death

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-30494548>

G4S guards found not guilty of manslaughter of Jimmy Mubenga

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/16/g4s-guards-found-not-guilty-manslaughter-jimmy-mubenga>

Jimmy Mubenga's widow: I can't watch this happen to another family

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/16/jimmy-mubenga-widow-cant-stand-happen-another-family-g4s>

Jimmy Mubenga: Judge refused to allow jury to hear about guards' racist texts

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/17/jimmy-mubenga-racist-texts-not-heard-case>

The Jimmy Mubenga case exposed a system in denial over racism

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/19/jimmy-mubeng-case-racism>

Britain's immigration system in intensive care, say MPs

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/20/britain-immigration-system-in-intensive-care-mps>

Home Office's £30m immigration contract has led to 'catalogue of chaos'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-offices-30m-immigration-contract-has-led-to-catalogue-of-chaos-9931777.html>

UK's immigration system now in 'intensive care', Theresa May is warned

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uks-immigration-system-now-in-intensive-care-theresa-may-is-warned-9936921.html>

Migrant overstayer figures swell to more than 300,000, watchdog reveals

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/17/migrant-overstayer-figures-swell-watchdog-reveals>

Home Office 'failed to deal' with foreign nationals refused leave to stay in UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-30516025>

Borders shambles sees visa overstay figure rocket

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4300009.ece>

Latest Home Office shambles allows 260,000 migrants to overstay visas

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4300461.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Home Office fails on 'basic' immigration tasks, says watchdog

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11299028/Home-Office-fails-on-basic-immigration-tasks-says-watchdog.html>

Migrant population the size of Cardiff 'lost in the system': Backlog of 390,000 cases leaves process in 'intensive care'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2881462/Migrant-population-size-Cardiff-lost-Backlog-390-000-cases-leaves-process-intensive-care.html>

Files on missing migrants were left to rot in boxes: More than 260,000 foreigners thought to have overstayed visas

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2877936/Number-missing-illegal-immigrants-TWICE-high-previously-thought-files-223-600-foreigners-discovered-lying-unopened.html>

Fewer than 1% of overstaying immigrants left Britain under flagship scheme, report says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11298383/Less-than-1-of-overstaying-immigrants-left-Britain-under-flagship-scheme-report-says.html>

May faces fresh pressure on migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4299631.ece>

May: I'll kick out foreign graduates

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1498906.ece

Foreign students could be sent back to their home countries as soon as their courses are finished

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2882353/Foreign-students-sent-home-countries-soon-courses-finished.html>

Theresa May to 'kick out foreign graduates' in new immigration plans

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/foreign-students-could-be-sent-home-before-applying-for-work-visas-to-cut-immigration-9938145.html>

May considering student exit plans

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/may-considering-student-exit-plans-1.748433>

Miliband retreats on immigration strategy

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4298434.ece>

Don't talk about immigration, party tells Labour candidates

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4297779.ece>

Immigrants make around 100 bids a day to illegally enter UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/immigrants-make-around-100-bids-a-day-to-illegally-enter-uk.1418996616>

Illegal migrants are making 100 attempts a day to enter UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-making-100-attempts-a-day-to-enter-uk-9936464.html>

Immigration system in intensive care, warns Keith Vaz

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30550483>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Fears over delay to migrant exit checks

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/article4303149.ece>

Border exit checks could lead to queue chaos, MPs warn

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11304524/Border-exit-checks-could-lead-to-queue-chaos-MPs-warn.html>

Brides must wait to beat fake marriages

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4301532.ece>

Migrants are stopped 3,000 times a month

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4301730.ece>

These days, money buys you a better class of citizenship

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/14/immigration-rule-change-assault-britishness-money-citizenship-rights>

My first Christmas in the UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/dec/20/-sp-my-first-christmas-in-the-uk>

Non-EU family members do not need visa to enter UK, says European court

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/18/non-eu-family-members-visa-uk-european-court>

'Millions' more given the right to move to the UK after court rules EU workers free to bring their families... wherever they are from

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2878913/Millions-given-right-UK-court-rules-EU-workers-free-bring-families-from.html>

'We have now reached a position where Scots are having loved ones torn from their arms and sent overseas'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/we-have-now-reached-a-position-where-scots-are-having-loved-ones-torn-from-their-arms.26123369>

Families torn apart by UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/families-torn-apart-by-uk.26133792>

Don't say 'illegal immigrants': Whitehall prefers 'clandestine entrants' or 'irregular migrants' to avoid 'connotations'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2880787/Don-t-say-illegal-immigrants-Home-Office-prefers-clandestine-entrants-irregular-migrants-avoid-connotations.html>

£8,000 to marry a stranger: Ringleaders of sham marriage gang which paid British women to wed foreigners are jailed for total of 13 years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2876096/Ringleaders-sham-marriage-gang-paid-British-women-wed-foreigners-jailed-total-13-years.html>

#Unlocked comes to Scotland's Dungavel

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2537_unlocked_comes_to_scotland_s_dungavel

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Integration Update

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles): ...

We are committed to confronting and challenging extremism in all its forms, tackling the violence and hatred that seeks to create division. We are championing what unites our country across class, colour and creed, and we are standing up for and supporting British values. ...

We continue to implement the actions of the extremism taskforce and are currently working with the Home Office, who are leading on the Government's new extremism strategy. We will also shortly be publishing a comprehensive report on the Government's work on tackling anti-Semitism ...

In contrast to the last Administration, we have moved away from supporting separate communities' identities—"single group funding"—as it undermines integration. We promote British values including equality of all before the law and a belief in democracy. We will not fund or engage with groups which promote violent or non-violent extremism.

...

We are determined that faith institutions should have the support they require to carry out their vital work. Faith institutions play a key role in communities. They provide support and moral leadership and a sense of community all around the country. ...

To read the full statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141218/wmstext/141218m0001.htm#1412184300004>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions

Inequality

Dennis Robertson: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to tackle inequality. (S4O-3789)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government is determined to tackle all forms of inequality, including poverty, discrimination and disadvantage.

A wide range of measures is in place to help us to do this and our commitment runs throughout the new programme for government, through our 2015-16 budget proposals and through our legislative programme.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-03789&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-22276 by Shona Robison on 19 August 2014, what plans it has to assess the effectiveness of how it consults the Gypsy/Traveller community. (S4W-23411)

Reply from Alex Neil: We have no plans to formally assess the effectiveness of the Scottish Government consultation with the Gypsy/Traveller community. However, implementation of the forthcoming strategy for Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland may include further work on methods of engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23411&ResultsPerPage=10>

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22276&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it consults the Roma community. (S4W-23412)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government provides funding to Friends of Romano Lav, an organisation working to develop capacity among the Roma community in Glasgow. Scottish Government officials meet regularly with representatives from Friends of Romano Lav to discuss progress.

The membership of the Gypsy/Traveller Strategy Development Group includes a Friends of Romano Lav representative, as a capacity building opportunity and to maintain links between work on Gypsy/Travellers and the migrant Roma community.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23412&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the (a) UK Government, (b) Welsh Government, (c) Northern Ireland Executive and (d) Government of Ireland about how Gypsy/Traveller traditions should be recognised. (S4W-23413)

Reply from Alex Neil: We have not had any discussions with the governments mentioned about how Gypsy/Traveller traditions should be recognised as yet.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23413&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what action it takes to recognise the role of the language, Scottish Cant, in Scotland's culture and history.

Reply from Alasdair Allan: The Scottish Government recognises the important role that languages such as Scottish Cant play in Scotland's culture and heritage and in the identity of indigenous communities. There are a number of initiatives in place which aim to make progress with priorities identified by the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community, including the development of a strategy and action plan which will build on a number of recommendations from earlier reports. This strategy is being prepared with input from the Gypsy/Traveller community, and will be published in 2015.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23416&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that Historic Scotland takes due regard of the traditions of (a) the Gypsy/Traveller community and (b) other groups in its decision-making. (S4W-23414)

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: Historic Scotland addresses and celebrates the full spectrum of cultural diversity in all of its activities, the Gypsy/Traveller community falls within this. The success of this approach is endorsed by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights, which states on its website that: "Historic Scotland is fully compliant with its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. As a main agency of the Scottish Government, Historic Scotland contributes towards the

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Scottish Government's equality outcomes and mainstreaming report which is published on their website". Diversity is a key principle in all of Historic Scotland's developmental programmes and is covered specifically in its induction package for new staff. Historic Scotland's decision-making on which monuments and structures merit designation is governed by criteria set out in Scottish Historic Environment Policy. These criteria were produced after public consultation and align closely with those used in systems for protecting important historic assets elsewhere in the UK and across most of Europe.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23414&ResultsPerPage=10>

Gypsy/Traveller Community

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government how many Historic Scotland staff have received awareness training about the traditions of (a) the Gypsy/Traveller community and (b) other groups. (S4W-23416)

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: Historic Scotland approaches diversity from a broad perspective, seeking to address and celebrate the full spectrum of cultural diversity. Historic Scotland consistently retains this as a core principle throughout its development programmes in seeking to enhance understanding.

Reflecting this position, Historic Scotland's approach to diversity in its developmental programmes is to ensure that the topic is a theme which is addressed throughout. There are specific sessions on disability and diversity in Historic Scotland's induction package for new staff.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23416&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Sharon Hodgson [217284] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department has taken to improve health outcomes for people who identify as (a) Gypsy, Roma or Travellers and (b) being from other ethnic minority background.

Reply from Jane Ellison: The Inclusion Health programme seeks to improve the way we meet the health needs of some of the most vulnerable groups, including Gypsies, Travellers and Roma. We set up the National Inclusion Health Board, an expert group to provide focus and leadership on the needs of those most vulnerable to poor health outcomes. The board has published guidance on commissioning inclusive health services by ensuring local planning tools – such as the joint strategic needs assessment – are sufficiently comprehensive to take account of the needs of these groups. It has also sought to identify these groups in data collections across the country to provide the intelligence needed to support health and wellbeing strategies for these groups. Other work is in hand, on some of the social circumstances that shape the health outcomes of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, and on the education and training of health professionals for working with these vulnerable groups.

We have introduced an Equality Delivery System toolkit to help National Health Service organisations comply with the public sector equality duty. This toolkit is designed to support NHS commissioners and providers to deliver better outcomes for all patients and communities, including those from ethnic minority groups. It allows NHS organisations to monitor their equality performance jointly with their patients, communities and staff, in regard to each of the nine characteristics given

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

protection under the 2010 Equality Act, including race.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-04/217284/>

Pupils: Travellers

Lord Storey [HL3226] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to address the inclusion of Roma children in United Kingdom schools.

Reply from Lord Nash: The Government has moved away from bespoke top-down programmes and initiatives aimed at ensuring the inclusion of individual ethnic groups of pupils. Our approach is to set a clear expectation that all schools ensure that all their pupils, regardless of their ethnicity, are welcomed and fully integrated into school, and prepared for life in modern Britain.

The Department for Education continues to engage with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) education stakeholder group, chaired by Baroness Whitaker, to disseminate good practice and encourage local action, particularly around how to improve GRT pupils' attendance and attainment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3226/>

Schools: Ethnic Groups

Sharon Hodgson [217281] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department has taken to increase representation of ethnic minorities in leadership positions in schools.

Reply from David Laws: School workforce census data continues to show under-representation of particular groups of individuals within leadership positions. In particular there are significant leadership gaps for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and female leaders.

The Government has funded a wide range of local and centrally run programmes to address this under-representation. Activity has included a number of bespoke positive action programmes and the Ofsted Shadowing Programme that enables senior leaders from a BME background to shadow an Ofsted inspector and gain insight into school performance and effectiveness.

Whilst the Ofsted Shadowing Programme is still running, the other centrally run activity has been replaced by leadership development programmes which are locally designed and delivered by schools. We believe that this allows school leaders the freedom to use resources to target their specific needs and to develop high quality leadership for their pupils.

Ensuring that those from BME backgrounds can gain leadership positions is very important and earlier this year we funded collaborative groups of schools to develop their own solutions and leadership programmes to increase the diversity of the school leadership workforce. The scope of the funding covers any of the nine protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).

30 school partnerships across the country are now running leadership programmes which will be completed by 30 June 2015. Of these programmes; 12 will specifically target teachers from a BME background, and 10 will focus on BME and women. A condition of the funding is that schools will share their learning with each other and more widely across the school system and we will be developing case studies to further disseminate learning. We expect all participants to gain next stage promotions within a year of completing programmes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-04/217281/>

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Teachers

Sharon Hodgson [217309] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of those teaching in state-funded schools at the latest date for which such figures are available were identified as (a) white British and (b) any other ethnic group.

Reply from David Laws: In November 2013 there were 420,000 teachers working in state-funded schools that were White-British (88% of all teachers where their ethnicity was known) and a further 57,000 (12%) teachers from all other ethnic groups. Ethnicity data is known for 95% of all teachers.

The information requested is also published in table 5 in the statistical first release 'School Workforce in England, November 2013' and is published online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-workforce-in-england-november-2013

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217309/>

Non-teaching Staff

Sharon Hodgson [217311] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of those in support roles in state-funded schools at the latest date for which such figures are available were identified as (a) white British and (b) any other ethnic group.

Reply from David Laws: In November 2013 there were 658,000 support staff (which includes teaching assistants and all non-classroom based school staff) working in state-funded schools that were White-British (87% of support staff where their ethnicity is known) and a further 95,000 (13%) support staff from all other ethnic groups. Ethnicity data is known for 95% of all staff in support roles.

The information requested is also published in table 6 in the statistical first release 'School Workforce in England, November 2013' and is published online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-workforce-in-england-november-2013

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217311/>

Schools: Staff

Sharon Hodgson [217312] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department has taken to increase representation of ethnic minorities in the schools workforce.

Reply from David Laws: The most recent School Workforce census shows that 7% of the teaching workforce are from black or minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds. By comparison, 12% of initial teacher trainees who have started programmes in 2014/15 have declared themselves to be from a BME background. This positive picture reflects the range of opportunities and benefits now available to talented people to enter teaching by a diverse range of routes, including bursaries and scholarships; personalised support; and a salary-based training option.

In addition, the Department for Education sponsors the 'Teach First' programme, aimed at raising standards in the most challenging schools and areas of the country. 15% of Teach First's 2014/15 trainees are from a BME background. The Department recently announced that it would be expanding Teach First from next year to 2,000 places across the country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217312/>

Schools: Leadership

Sharon Hodgson [217310] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of those in leadership positions in state-funded schools at the latest date for which such figures are available were identified as (a) white British and (b) any other ethnic group.

Reply from David Laws: In November 2013 there were 57,000 leadership teachers working in state-funded schools that were White-British (92% of all leadership teachers where their ethnicity was known) and a further 5,000 (8%) leadership teachers from all other ethnic groups. Ethnicity data is known for 97% of all leadership teachers.

The information requested is also published in table 5 in the statistical first release 'School Workforce in England, November 2013' and is published online at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-workforce-in-england-november-2013

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217310/>

Judiciary

Sharon Hodgson [217288] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of members of the judiciary are identified as (a) white British and (b) from any other ethnic minority group.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: General judicial diversity information is in the public domain and is available on the judiciary website:

<http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/publications/judicial-diversity-statistics-2014/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217288/>

NHS: Staff

The following four questions all received the same answer.

Sharon Hodgson [217278] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of NHS medical practitioners at the latest date for which such figures are available identified as (a) white British and (b) from any other ethnic group.

Sharon Hodgson [217279] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of staff in clinical leadership positions within the NHS at the latest date for which such figures are available identified as (a) white British and (b) from any other ethnic group.

Sharon Hodgson [217280] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of NHS staff in administrative or support roles at the latest date for which such figures are available identified as (a) white British and (b) from any other ethnic group.

Sharon Hodgson [217283] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many and what proportion of NHS staff in administrative leadership roles at the latest date for which such figures are available identified as (a) white British and (b) from any other ethnic group.

Reply from Daniel Poulter: The attached table shows the number and proportion of National Health Service medical practitioners, staff in clinical leadership positions, staff in administrative or support roles and staff in administrative leadership roles by ethnicity. The data is from the latest provisional monthly workforce statistics for August 2014 and the provisional NHS staff earnings estimates, published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Some staff will be counted twice within this table due to the overlap between the specified staff groups.

Equality
UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Selected staff groups by selected ethnic categories, August 2014						
England			numbers (headcount)			
			All Hospital Community Health Services (HCHS) doctors (inc locum) ⁽¹⁾	Clinical leadership staff ⁽²⁾	Administrative leadership staff ⁽³⁾	NHS infrastructure support and Support to clinical staff ⁽⁴⁾
All ethnicities			111,963	83,705	36,859	567,260
	of which known		103,724	80,069	34,087	541,450
		White British	48,692	52,583	29,175	439,110
		% <i>White British</i> ⁽⁵⁾	46.9%	65.7%	85.6%	81.1%
		Any other ethnic group	55,032	27,486	4,912	102,340
		% <i>Any other ethnic group</i> ⁽⁵⁾	53.1%	34.3%	14.4%	18.9%
	Unknown /not stated ⁽⁶⁾		8,239	3,636	2,772	25,810

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, NHS Hospital & Community Health Service (HCHS) Provisional monthly workforce statistics

Source: Health and Social Care Information Centre, Provisional NHS Staff Earnings Estimates

Notes: Some staff will be counted twice within this table due to the overlap between the specified staff groups

(1) Includes all Hospital and Community Health Services Doctors and locums

(2) Clinical leadership staff includes all medical and dental consultants, directors of nursing and public health, all other clinically qualified staff band 8a and above, and all clinically qualified staff not on Agenda for Change with annualised basic pay earnings greater than band 8a.

(3) Administrative leadership staff includes all non medical staff with an occupation code beginning G0 (senior manager) and G1 (manager)

(4) Administrative or support roles includes all NHS infrastructure support staff and Support to clinical staff

(5) This is a percentage of the total staff with a known ethnic category

(6) Staff who have declined to comment on their ethnic category have been categorised as "Not Stated". Staff for whom there is no information have been categorised as "Unknown".

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-04/217278/>

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Law and Order

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Sharon Hodgson [217292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to increase the representation of ethnic minorities in leadership roles within law enforcement agencies.

Sharon Hodgson [217293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to (a) provide support for the recruitment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller police officers and (b) in other ways improve relations between the police and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Sharon Hodgson [217296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to increase the representation of ethnic minorities in front-line law enforcement roles.

Reply from Mike Penning: The Government is committed to improving diversity in policing: in a modern, diverse society it is essential to building the trust and confidence of all communities.

This Government's reforms will allow for faster progress on equality and diversity. We established the College of Policing, which has embarked on a major programme looking at recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic officers and has recently published advice on positive action for police forces. We are actively engaging with the College, and forces to ensure this work is taken forward, providing access to key diversity data to evaluate progress within forces, and publishing workforce diversity data online for the public on police.uk. We have also introduced different routes into the police through the Direct Entry schemes and by supporting the development of 'Police Now'. These schemes have received a more diverse range of applicants compared to the existing police workforce. For example, the 'Police Now' scheme received 1,248 applications, of which 48% were from women, and 19% from people of black or ethnic minority backgrounds. This is in contrast to the current representation levels in the Metropolitan Police, where only 11% of police officers are from an ethnic minority background and 25% are women.

We have also established Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) with responsibility for the totality of policing in their areas, including ensuring that community needs are met, and that forces secure the trust and confidence of the public. Decisions on when and how to recruit individuals are for the chief officer of a police force.

We welcome the launch of the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Police Association this year, whose aims include fostering better relations between the police and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. This shows that policing takes equality and diversity seriously and is taking steps to address issues that matter to all communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217292/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217293/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217296/>

Travellers

Sharon Hodgson [217298] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he has taken to develop inclusive practices and community

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

cohesion guidance with respect to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Reply from Brandon Lewis The Government's approach to integration is set out in "Creating the conditions for integration", published in February 2012. Instead of large scale, centrally led and funded programmes our approach is to enable civil society and local areas to take action on integration issues that are important to them. We have moved away from a focus on single issues and specific groups, but we nonetheless recognise that Gypsies and Travellers experience inequalities in a number of important areas. The Ministerial Working Group on Reducing Inequalities Experienced by Gypsies and Travellers published a progress report in April 2012, which made 28 commitments from across Government on reducing inequalities in these communities. We are currently reviewing progress on those commitments and will publish a further report in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217298/>

Education: Standards

Sharon Hodgson [217306] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department has taken to increase the attainment of children and young people who identify as (a) Gypsy, Roma or Travellers and (b) being from other ethnic minority backgrounds.

Reply from David Laws: The Department for Education's reforms, including those aimed at improving teaching; encouraging good attendance and behaviour; and strengthening the curriculum and examination system, are designed to increase opportunity and support higher standards for all pupils, regardless of their ethnic background. These reforms are underpinned by new school accountability measures, which will encourage schools to focus more closely on the attainment of all their pupils. The pupil premium is providing schools with an additional £2.5 billion this year to support their disadvantaged pupils, including those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT), and other minority ethnic groups. The Department funded two local authorities to trial a virtual headteacher for GRT pupils, with responsibility for supporting schools to promote better pupil outcomes. The effective practice identified has been disseminated to every local authority. In addition, the Department hosts a GRT education stakeholder group, chaired by Baroness Whitaker, which seeks to promote higher educational attainment for this group of pupils.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217306/>

Pupil Exclusions

Sharon Hodgson [217307] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department has taken to reduce the exclusion rate of children and young people who identify as (a) Gypsy, Roma or Travellers and (b) being from other ethnic minority backgrounds.

Reply from David Laws: It is for headteachers to decide whether a pupil's behaviour is such that it warrants exclusion from school. Reforms undertaken have focused on supporting schools to drive up standards, improve attendance and tackle poor behaviour. The Department for Education has issued statutory guidance that sets out schools' responsibilities in relation to exclusion decisions. The guidance reinforces that schools must take into account their duties under the Equality Act 2010 when excluding pupils, so as not to discriminate against them because of their ethnicity. It also highlights specifically those ethnic groups with disproportionately high exclusion rates and notes that headteachers should

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

consider what extra support might be needed to reduce their risk of exclusion. The Department is addressing the underlying causes of exclusion through its reforms to improve the quality of education that all pupils receive and to increase support for children with additional needs. This includes strengthening schools' powers to tackle poor attendance and behaviour; addressing economic disadvantage through the pupil premium; overhauling the special educational needs system; and supporting improvements in the quality of alternative provision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217307/>

Health Services: Travellers

Sharon Hodgson [217797] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what progress his Department has made on implementing the recommendations and guidance produced by the National Inclusion Health Board with regard to access to health services by people who are Gypsy, Roma or Travellers.

Jane Ellison: Reports published by the National Inclusion Health Board have highlighted the need for an inclusive approach in planning and commissioning local services, set out useful examples of good practice for local areas to draw on in framing their services, and – through the Royal College of General Practitioners – published a guide on improving access to services for these groups.

The implementation of these recommendations and guidance continues to be carried forward by clinical commissioning groups, health and wellbeing boards and other key partners. We are continuing to consider what more can be done to improve the health outcomes of the Inclusion Health groups across the health system, including for people who are Gypsy, Traveller or Roma.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217797/>

Vaccination: Travellers

Luciana Berger [217978] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the Gypsy and Traveller community who have received immunisations recommended by the NHS.

Reply from Jane Ellison: Information on the uptake of vaccines among the Gypsy and Traveller community is not routinely collected.

In May 2013 the Journal of Public Health published a paper submitted by Public Health England entitled 'Mapping the Gypsy Traveller community in England: what we know about their health service provision and childhood immunisation uptake'.

The paper referred to above can be read at

http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/168948/original/PQ217978_Library%20doc_Mapping%20the%20Gypsy%20Traveller%20community%20in%20England.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217978/>

Press Release

Equality and Human Rights Commission responds to Vince Cable's initiative to increase Black and ethnic minority representation on company boards

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/commission-responds-vince-cable%E2%80%99s-initiative-increase-black-and-ethnic-minority-representation>

Equality (continued) New Publications

Census 2011: Ethnic composition of England's most deprived neighbourhoods

<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/medialibrary/areaprofiler/AreaProfilerEthnicDeprivation2011census.xlsx>

OSCE Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues marks 20 years since its creation

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/130106>

Roma and Sinti youth can overcome barriers to their inclusion through grassroots movements, say participants of OSCE conference in Belgrade

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/130531>

Drifting upwards or sliding back? Ethnic inequalities in local authorities in England and Wales, 2001-2011

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Runnymede%20Ethnic%20Inequalities%20Briefing.pdf>

News

Roma pupils need more support, says Ofsted

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-30494269>

Schools 'not getting resources for Roma'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/schools-not-getting-resources-for-roma-9929408.html>

Supreme Court overturns midwives abortion ruling

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/supreme-court-overturns-midwives-abortion-ruling.1418811139>

Court overturns Catholic midwife abortion ruling

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/court-overturns-catholic-midwife-abortion-ruling-1-3636471>

Catholic midwives' abortion ruling overturned by supreme court

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/17/catholic-midwives-abortion-ruling-overturned>

Catholic midwives must supervise abortions, Supreme Court decides

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11298385/Catholic-midwives-lose-Supreme-Court-case-over-objection-to-abortions.html>

Supreme Court judges rule against Catholic midwives

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4300477.ece>

UK's highest court rules two Catholic midwives can not object to being involved in abortions in landmark case

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2877279/UK-s-highest-court-rules-two-Catholic-midwives-not-object-involved-abortions-landmark-case.html>

Lack of diversity on boardrooms increasing despite Westminster push

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/dec/15/lack-of-diversity-all-white-boardrooms-increasing-study-reveals>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Anti-Semitism

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141209/halltext/141209h0001.htm#14120973000001>

UK Parliament Questions

Antisemitism

Guto Bebb [215619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussion she has had with social media companies about anti-Semitic comments on social media forums.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office, working through the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Antisemitism which works to tackle all forms of hate crime, has engaged with leading social media companies, related industry representatives and community groups to discuss the issues of the personal harm caused by offensive material on the internet. This has included work as part of the anti-cyber hate working group. As part of this collaborative process, the group has produced and recently published 'Responding to the Challenge of Cyberhate: Best Practices'.

This provides a useful tool to help internet service providers, social media companies and other internet industry organisations to challenge and counter online hatred, whilst recognising the importance of free speech. The government expects social media companies to have robust processes in place to promptly deal with a case when abuse is reported to them. This includes acting quickly to assess the report, removing content which does not comply with the acceptable use policies or terms and conditions that are in place, and where appropriate, suspending or terminating the accounts of those breaching the rules that are in place.

We have supported the development of True Vision, the police-led online reporting facility and information resource, which allows people to report internet hate material directly to the police.

The Government will continue to work with social media and the internet industries in the interests of the public, as we take online hatred very seriously. Online abuse is just as illegal as communications that are offline and anyone who has been a victim of internet abuse should not hesitate to contact the police.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215619/>

Antisemitism

David Simpson [215744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to protect synagogues from terrorist attacks.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The government recognises the concerns of the Jewish community in relation to the threat from terrorism, particularly given the attack at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May this year and the recent attack at a synagogue in Jerusalem. The threat level from international terrorism to the UK has been raised to SEVERE. This is related to the developments in Syria and Iraq where groups are planning an attack in the UK, rather than threats to specific communities.

Key community contacts have been briefed by senior police leaders, neighbourhood policing teams and local Counter Terrorism Focus Desk officers, who are seeking to reassure communities that may feel vulnerable.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Specialist protective security advice has also been provided to faith-based locations of worship, including Synagogues, and reassurance has been given to those at other sites who may feel vulnerable.

The Police are working in partnership with the Community Security Trust (CST) and other community members to coordinate security arrangements around synagogues and other vulnerable locations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-24/215744/>

Religious Hatred / Racial Hatred

The following two questions both received the same answer.

Sharon Hodgson [217294] To ask the Attorney General, how many people were charged with inciting religious hatred in each of the last five years.

Sharon Hodgson [217295] To ask the Attorney General, how many people were charged with inciting racial hatred in each of the last five years.

Reply from Richard Buckland: Allegations of inciting religious and racial hatred are by their very nature highly sensitive. For that reason, and to ensure a consistent approach, all charging decisions and prosecutions are dealt with by the Special Crime & Counter Terrorism Division of the Crown Prosecution Service. All such prosecutions require the consent of the Attorney General.

There have been 4 people charged with inciting religious hatred over the last 5 years, split as follows:

Year	Number
2014	3
2013	0
2012	0
2011	0
2010	1

There have been 5 people charged with inciting racial hatred over the last five years, split as follows:

Year	Number
2014	0
2013	1
2012	0
2011	3
2010	1

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217294/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217295/>

Religious Hatred / Racial Hatred

The following two questions both received the same answer.

Sharon Hodgson [217289] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people were convicted of inciting religious hatred in each of the last five years.

Sharon Hodgson [217290] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people were convicted of inciting racial hatred in each of the last five years.

Reply from Mike Penning: Hate crime of any form is unacceptable and taken very seriously by the Government. That's why there are tough sentencing options available to the courts and we're working with the police to increase reporting of

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

these terrible offences. This country has some of the toughest laws in the world around hate crime and offenders who commit such crimes should be in no doubt that they will face a more severe sentence.

The number of offenders found guilty of offences relating to inciting racial and religious hatred in England and Wales, from 2009 to 2013, can be viewed in the table.

Offenders found guilty at all courts of offences related to racial (1) or religious hatred (2), England and Wales, 2009 to 2013 (3)(4)(5)					
Group	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Racial	6	9	6	-	3
Religious	2	2	-	-	1
'-' = Nil					

(1) Offences under SS 18 - 22 Public Order Act 1986, stirring up hatred on the grounds of race.

(2) Offences under SS 29B - 29 F Public Order Act 1986, stirring up hatred on the grounds of religion.

(3) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

(4) 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.

(5) Prior to 23 March 2010, only acts intended to stir up religious hatred were reported. When Sections 29B to 29G of the Public Order Act 1986 were amended by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, offences for acts intended to stir up hatred on grounds of sexual orientation were added to offences for acts intended to stir up religious hatred.

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: PQ 217289 217290

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217290/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217289/>

Castes: Discrimination

Andrew Holloway [217000] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2014 to Question 209041, what assessment she has made of the implications of the findings of the final report on estimating the extent of caste-based discrimination in the UK on the timescale for the publication of a consultation on caste discrimination.

Nick Boles: We are currently considering the form and timing of the public

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

consultation in the light of ongoing caste discrimination litigation in the Employment Appeal Tribunal. We will await the outcome of the judgment before deciding in what form to issue the public consultation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-03/217000/>

Homophobia

Dan Jarvis [217882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many homophobic hate crimes were committed against people of Asian ethnicity in each year since May 2010.

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office does not hold this information. The police recorded hate crime data collected and published by the Home Office does not include ethnicity of the victim.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217882/>

Press Release

Auschwitz-Birkenau museum: Prime Minister's statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/auschwitz-birkenau-museum-prime-ministers-statement>

New Publication

Challenging Sectarianism Across Generations

<https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/aos-network/aos-network-library/research-documents?download=145:wsrec-report-challenging-sectarianism-across-generations>

News

48% not guilty of sectarian abuse

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/48-not-guilty-of-sectarian-abuse-1.739902>

MP: Twitter must block racist words

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/mp-twitter-must-block-racist-words-1.745405>

Twitter should ban racist words, says MP

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/dec/19/twitter-ban-racist-words-labour-mp-luciana-berger>

Twitter should block racist words, says Labour MP Luciana Berger who was targeted by Nazi sympathiser online

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2880288/Twitter-block-racist-words-says-Labour-MP-Luciana-Berger-targeted-Nazi-sympathiser-online.html>

Tackling racism is about more than just wearing a T-shirt

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/tackling-racism-is-about-more-than-just-wearing-a-t-shirt.114959884>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Wigan owner Dave Whelan requests non-personal hearing for FA charge

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2014/dec/15/dave-whelan-non-personal-hearing-wigan-fa-charge>

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Scottish Devolution

Scottish Parliament Debate

Smith Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9684#.VInglGSsUzE>

Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

Smith Commission for Further Devolution of Powers to the Scottish Parliament: Evidence including from the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the Deputy First Minister

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9674&i=87886>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9688&i=88038>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-11830 Ruth Davidson: The Smith Commission—That the Parliament agrees with the Smith Commission's proposals to devolve significant new powers to the Parliament; welcomes the fact that all five parties represented at the Parliament came together to reach an agreement on these powers, and now recognises the need to move on from a debate about what powers are devolved to one that focuses on how best to use these significant new powers for the betterment of the people of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11830&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Devolution: Scotland

William McCrea [216984] To ask the Prime Minister, what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations about the recommendations of the Smith Commission.

Reply from David Cameron: I discussed the Smith Commission with Nicola Sturgeon on 19 November following her election as First Minister of Scotland. I made clear the Government's commitment to continue to deliver on the vow made by the three pro-UK parties for further powers to the Scottish Parliament and to stick to the clear timetable set out.

I look forward to further discussion with the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, and the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland on improving inter-governmental working, one of the key recommendations of the Smith Commission.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-03/216984/>

Scottish Devolution

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Smith Commission

Mark Pawsey: What the implications are of the Smith commission report for further discussions of devolution in the House. [906423]

Anne McIntosh: What the implications are of the Smith commission report for further discussions of devolution in the House. [906426]

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: What the implications are of the Smith commission report for further discussions of devolution in the House. [906427]

Reply from the First Secretary of State and Leader of the House of Commons (William Hague): The Government are committed to publishing draft clauses based on the Smith commission report by 25 January 2015. I will report to the House in due course on further progress in relation to the devolution of powers within the United Kingdom, and on the consequences for England.

Mark Pawsey: As the House considers the report, there will be much talk about how combined city authorities can become the vehicles for devolution in England. That will make it increasingly necessary for authorities to come together in the west midlands, where there is still no agreement. Will the Leader of the House ensure that the position of shire counties and rural areas is fully taken into account, so that everyone in England has an opportunity to benefit?

Reply from William Hague: That is an extremely important point, and, as a north Yorkshire Member of Parliament, I am certainly very conscious of it. There is a huge opportunity for local authorities to take up the challenge that has been taken up by Manchester, and to reach the same agreement with the Chancellor. However, this does not only involve metropolitan areas or conurbations; there are also major opportunities for county councils and rural authorities in general to make such plans, and we should encourage them to do so.

Anne McIntosh: I congratulate my right hon. Friend on delivering the Smith commission's conclusions into legislation, but does he share my worry that the voice of rural communities such as North Yorkshire county council, and indeed the moneys for transport infrastructure and other projects, may well be adversely affected if the plans for the city region and the northern powerhouse go ahead in the form that I fear that they may take?

Reply from William Hague: It is of course important for the whole concept of the northern powerhouse to work for people throughout the north of England and for rural as well as urban areas to benefit from it. Given the locations of our constituencies, my hon. Friend and I will both be very insistent that that should happen. It is certainly possible for the whole of the north to benefit from the uplift in prosperity, skills, transport infrastructure and superfast broadband, because the Government have put together a stronger set of measures for the north of England than any other Government in recent decades.

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: I am sure my right hon. Friend is well aware that my constituents are very keen on English votes for English laws. How will he implement that, and how does the Smith commission recommend that it—as well as devo-max in Scotland—should be implemented in a way that will not lead to a break-up of the Union?

Reply from William Hague: The Government will shortly publish a Command Paper setting out the options for what have become known as English votes for English laws, as well as plans for further decentralisation within England. I hope to publish it before Christmas, and will seek to make a statement in the House, following which we shall all be able to consider together how to proceed with those plans.

Andrew Gwynne: May I ask the Leader of the House how far he intends to take the logic of English votes for English laws, given that with the devolution to Greater Manchester I will no longer be able to vote, as a Greater Manchester MP, on many of those issues, but

Scottish Devolution

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

will be able to vote on those same issues in the right hon. Gentleman's constituency?

Reply from William Hague: I have invited the Opposition to present their own proposals, but they have refused to take part in any discussions with the Cabinet Committee. I wrote last week to the deputy leader of the Labour party to ask it to present its proposals that we could publish in the Command Paper I have just been talking about. I have not yet had any positive response to that. The hon. Gentleman might want to encourage that response. It is very important of course that whatever solution we arrive at is fair to all parts of the United Kingdom, but that includes being fair to the voters of England as well as to the rest of the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141204/debtext/141204-0001.htm#14120439000033>

Smith Commission

Katy Clark [218261] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what consultation he plans on the draft legislation arising from the recommendations of the Smith Commission.

Reply from David Mundell: The Smith Commission process was thorough and extensive, consisting of cross-party talks with all five main political parties in Scotland and wide ranging engagement with Scottish civic institutions and members of the public.

The UK Government's role now is to turn the agreement reached between the parties into draft clauses by 25 January 2015.

To support the draft legislation the Secretary of State for Scotland has invited Scottish stakeholders representing a wide range of different sectors to form a Stakeholder Group. This group will help inform the Government's public and stakeholder engagement following the publication of the draft clauses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218261/>

Press Release

Scottish referendum well run and provides lessons for future referendums in UK

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-referendums/scottish-referendum-well-run-and-provides-lessons-for-future-referendums-in-uk>

Publication

Scottish Independence Referendum: Report on the referendum held on 18 September 2014

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/179812/Scottish-independence-referendum-report.pdf

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9667&i=87837>

Public Petitions Committee

Tinkers' Heart of Argyll (PE1523)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9693&i=88088>

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-11854 Jackie Baillie: International Human Rights Day—That the Parliament welcomes 10 December 2014 as International Human Rights Day, which was proclaimed by the UN in 1950; notes that this day commemorates the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948; understands that this year's International Human Rights Day theme is Human Rights 365, emphasising the idea that every day is Human Rights Day; celebrates the UK Human Rights Act, enacted by a Labour government in 1998, which incorporated the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law and continues to protect basic human rights; reaffirms the essential human rights and freedoms of all people, and acknowledges the responsibility of the Parliament to continue to uphold and protect these rights.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11854&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

The Scottish Approach to human rights

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/The-Scottish-Approach-to-human-rights-12f1.aspx>

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2013-14

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Criminal-Proceedings-in-Scotland-2013-14-1385.aspx>

New Publications

MSPs' expenses information published

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/84731.aspx>

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2013-14

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00466204.pdf>

Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00465732.pdf>

Conduct of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00465948.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141211-gc0001.htm#14121139000325>

Sharia Law

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141211-gc0001.htm#14121139000326>

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Chuka Umunna [215350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support she gives to local authorities to tackle female genital mutilation; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Female genital mutilation is an extremely harmful practice which the government is committed to tackling. We are strengthening the law on FGM. The Serious Crime Bill includes provisions to extend extra-territorial jurisdiction over offences of FGM committed abroad, to provide lifelong anonymity for victims of FGM, and to create a new offence of failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. We are also introducing a new civil protection order to protect victims or potential victims of FGM.

We are improving the police response to FGM working with the College of Policing and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

The College of Policing is introducing a new authorised professional practice on FGM to raise awareness amongst investigators and better equip them to tackle the practice. In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will be conducting a force level inspection on the police response to so-called honour based violence with a focus on FGM.

In order to support local areas the government has launched an e-learning tool so that all front line practitioners are able to undertake an introduction to FGM. The government is also funding training for Local Safeguarding Children

Boards which will be delivered this financial year and has launched an online FGM resource for local areas. The aim of the resource is to emphasise what works in tackling FGM and highlight examples where effective practice has been identified.

The government has part funded a new study by Equality Now and City University into the prevalence of female genital mutilation in England and Wales. The interim report, published in July 2014, has estimated that approximately 60,000

girls aged 0-14 were born in England and Wales to mothers who had had FGM, and that approximately 103,000 women aged 15-49 and approximately 24,000 women aged 50 and over who have migrated to England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM. In addition, approximately 10,000 girls aged under 15 who have migrated to England and Wales are likely to have suffered FGM. The full report, with data disaggregated to a local level, will be released in the new year.

In addition, since April 2014 NHS staff have been required to record in a patient's healthcare record whenever it is identified that the patient has suffered FGM. This applies to all NHS clinicians and healthcare professionals

across the NHS. The collection became mandatory on 1 September 2014. The first

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

aggregated monthly data return from acute hospital providers in England, published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, reported that in September 2014 there were 1,279 patients identified as having undergone FGM prior to the reporting period, who were still being actively seen or treated for FGM-related conditions or any other non-related condition, and 467 newly identified cases of FGM nationally.

The government does not hold information on the number of arrests related to FGM in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-11-19/215350/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Berkeley of Knighton [HL3412] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they are making in securing convictions for female genital mutilation.

Reply from Lord Bates: At the Girl Summit hosted by the Prime Minister in July 2014, the government set out a clear commitment to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and announced a comprehensive package of domestic measures to achieve this.

This involved a range of measures to improve the law enforcement response and thereby help to secure convictions for FGM. A number of amendments have been tabled to the Serious Crime Bill to strengthen the law, new police guidance on FGM is being published, and a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into so called 'honour-based' violence with a focus on FGM will commence in 2015. In addition, 42 forces have signed joint protocols with the Crown Prosecution Service on the investigation and prosecution of FGM. The government published a consultation on 5 December on how to introduce a mandatory reporting duty to increase referrals to the police in order to support more prosecutions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3412/>

Female Genital Mutilation

The following four questions all received the same answer.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3452] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure better co-ordination of guidance given to medical practitioners, teachers, and faith leaders on reporting and protecting girls from female genital mutilation.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3453] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to increase prosecution rates against those who have committed offences relating to female genital mutilation.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3455] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to collate statistics centrally on cases of female genital mutilation, both in the United Kingdom and involving British citizens extra-territorially.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3456] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to the recommendations of peer studies on female genital mutilation, such as the Bristol PEER Study.

Reply from Lord Bates: At the Girl Summit, hosted by the Prime Minister, in July 2014, the Government set out a clear commitment to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and announced a comprehensive package of domestic measures to achieve this. The Government published update multi-agency guidelines to support better co-ordination of guidance on protecting girls from FGM. On 5 December the Government published a public consultation which seeks views on how to put these guidelines on a statutory basis to increase awareness of FGM

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

and improve compliance with good practice.

The Government also set out a range of measures to improve the law enforcement response and increase prosecution rates for FGM including the introduction of new legislation, the publication of new police guidance on FGM, and a review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into 'so called' honour based violence with a focus on FGM to commence in 2015. In addition, 42 forces have signed joint protocols with the Crown Prosecution Service on the investigation and prosecution of FGM, and the Government published a consultation on 5 December on how to introduce a mandatory reporting duty to increase referrals to the police in order to support more prosecutions.

A prevalence study on FGM was also published by Equality Now and City University on 22 July, part-funded by the Home Office, identifying that approximately 60,000 girls aged 0-14 have been born in England and Wales to mothers who had undergone FGM. Further data disaggregated to a local level will be published in early 2015. In addition, the Health and Social Care Information Centre published the first ever NHS FGM data on 16 October. This is a critical first step in understanding the extent of FGM in England as reported to health professionals.

The Government works in close partnership with stakeholders in reviewing peer studies on FGM, and is committed to identifying and sharing good practice. On 22 July, the Government published a FGM resource pack on gov.uk including examples of good local practice in Bristol informed by the Bristol Peer study.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3452/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3453/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3455/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3456/>

Forced Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3494] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will clarify the role of teachers in monitoring girls at risk of being forced into under-age marriage.

Reply from Lord Nash: All school staff have a responsibility to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. All staff then have a responsibility to take appropriate action, working with other services as required. Those responsibilities, which apply to the risk of forced marriage as to any other form of abuse, are set out in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance for schools and their staff which the Government published in April 2014.[1]

The statutory guidance contains links to more detailed guidance on specific risks, including multi-Agency guidelines on forced marriage.[2] The chapter of those guidelines which focuses on schools, colleges and universities indicates: what teachers should look out for, such as changes in behaviour or attendance or the early marriage of a sibling; how they can support girls, by giving access to support and advice; and what they should do if they suspect a girl is being forced into marriage, including activating local child protection procedures.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

[1] www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education

[2]

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3494/>

Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL3208] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Lord Privy Seal on 25 November (HL Deb, col 789), what steps they intend to take to encourage British Muslims to address interpretations of the Qur'an, the Hadith and the Sunnah which deem them to form a justification for violence.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: There is a central verse in the Holy Quran which states there is 'no compulsion in religion' a teaching which reflects the thinking and practice of many British Muslims.

The Government has worked closely with British Muslim community organisations, such as the Federation of Muslim Organisations and Leeds Makkah Mosque, to enable the voice of the vast majority of Muslims across the country, who strongly oppose the poisonous rhetoric of violent extremists, to be heard. This is in addition to the regular contact Ministers and officials have with faith communities. We also commend the proactive community-led work such as the #notinmyname campaign and the letter signed by over 100 British Muslims leaders which categorically denounces ISIL's barbaric actions.

Efforts such as these are valuable in challenging extremists and in bringing together the different communities in Britain.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-11-27/HL3208/>

Press Releases

PM meeting with First Minister of Scotland: December 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-first-minister-of-scotland-december-2014>

Human Rights Day 2014: Nick Clegg's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/human-rights-day-2014-nick-cleggs-message>

Stephen Williams launches restoration programme of First World War Muslim burial ground

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stephen-williams-launches-restoration-programme-of-first-world-war-muslim-burial-ground>

Hanukkah 2014: Nick Clegg's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hanukkah-2014-nick-cleggs-message>

Communities ministers wish the Jewish community a happy Chanukah 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-ministers-wish-the-jewish-community-a-happy-chanukah-2014>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) New Publication

Female genital mutilation: the case for a national action plan

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384349/FGMresponseWeb.pdf

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New Publications

Equal and Free? 50 Muslim Women's Experiences of Marriage in Britain Today

<https://www.secularism.org.uk/uploads/aurat-report-dec2014.pdf>

Questions of Faith

<http://www.thinknpc.org/publications/questions-of-faith/questions-of-faith-final/?post-parent=12575>

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in Scotland: A Scottish model of intervention

<file:///Users/LeahRivka/Downloads/Tackling%20FGM%20in%20Scotland%20Report%202014%20W.pdf>

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Other News

'The NHS is allowing babies to be maimed'

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Health/article1498800.ece

Shoppers could be told how their meat has been slaughtered after halal row over unsuspecting diners eating animals which weren't stunned

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2881634/Shoppers-told-meat-slaughtered-halal-row-unsuspecting-diners-eating-animals-weren-t-stunned.html>

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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>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: Stage 1

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9682&i=87977>

** Community Empowerment Bill

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

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee: Stage 1 evidence sessions

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9669&i=87845>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9685&i=88003>

Bills in Progress **Scottish Parliament** (continued)

Criminal Justice Bill

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

**** Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/84356.aspx>

Bill as introduced

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/b57s4-introd.pdf

Explanatory Notes

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/b57s4-introd-en.pdf

Policy Memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/b57s4-introd-pm.pdf

Delegated Powers Memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human_Trafficking_and_Exploitation_Bill_-_DPM.pdf

Child Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00466039.pdf>

Equality Impact Assessment Results

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00465953.pdf>

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>

**** Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill 2014-15**

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141209/debtext/141209-0001.htm#14120938000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141215/debtext/141215-0002.htm#14121545000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141216/debtext/141216-0002.htm#14121647000002>

Committee Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/pro1271512p.373-379.html>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/psc1271612m.1283-1289.html>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/psc1270312a.1215.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/psc1270512a.1229-1235.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/psc1270170912m.1237-1243.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/psc1271012a.1245.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0127/amend/counterterradddnames.pdf>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0142/15142.pdf>

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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141203-0001.htm#14120356000509>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141208-0001.htm#1412087000316>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141210-0001.htm#14121045000486>

Bill as amended in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0069/15069.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Justice Committee consideration

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9696&i=88198>

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!**

What do you think of your National Human Rights Institution? (closing date 22 December 2014)

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/iccreaccreditation>

**** closes next week!**

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>

**** Introducing mandatory reporting for FGM** (closing date 12 January 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-mandatory-reporting-for-fgm>

**** Connecting Scotland - how the Scottish Government and its agencies engage internationally** (closing date 30 January 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/84816.aspx>

Community Empowerment Bill (no closing date given)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVglCS_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

**** Volunteering Support Grant**

Closing date for applications: 27 February 2015

The Volunteering Support Grant offers funding to third sector organisations to create new or enhanced volunteering projects, increasing the diversity of volunteers, especially those from disadvantaged groups, and improving opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/volunteering-support-grant/>

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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>

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>

Essentials of Asylum

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>

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>.

Working with Interpreters

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>

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/>

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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