

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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**Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.**

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**The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 31 August.  
The UK Parliament will be in recess from 23 July to 7 September.  
During the holiday period, MEMO will be published on  
27 July, 10 August, 24 August, and 7 September.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### English language qualification

**Tavish Scott:** To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to ensure that candidates in Scotland for an acceptable English language qualification under the UK Visas and Immigration requirements can take a course and sit the requisite exams in their local area. (S4W-26184)

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government believes that those

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

undertaking English language qualifications under UK Visas and Immigration requirements should be able to do so in their local area. After 5 November 2015, UK Visas and Immigration will only accept applications for settlement and citizenship by applicants who have an English language qualification awarded by only one of two approved providers. Each provider has only one testing centre in Scotland: one in Edinburgh and one in Glasgow. The First Minister has made the Scottish Government concerns about these proposed changes clear to the UK Immigration Minister and has called on the UK Government to continue to recognise SQA English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications as evidence of English language for UK Visas and Immigration requirements.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26184&ResultsPerPage=10>

### English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications

**Tavish Scott:** To ask the Scottish Government what representations it has made to UK Visas and Immigration regarding the availability of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications through the SQA being available to applicants throughout Scotland in their locality. (S4W-26185)

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** In March 2015 the Scottish Government was informed by the UK Minister for Immigration that in November 2015, the UK Government will no longer recognise Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) ESOL qualifications for UK settlement and citizenship applications. The First Minister has made Scottish Government concerns about these proposed changes clear to the UK Immigration Minister and has called on the UK Government to continue to recognise SQA ESOL qualifications as evidence of English language for UK Visas and Immigration requirements.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26185&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Debates

### Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150709/halltext/150709h0001.htm#15070967000002>

### Refugees and Migrants from Asia and Africa

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150709-0002.htm#15070961000823>

## UK Parliament Questions

### Courts: Interpreters

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark [HL773]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the interpretation service at courts and tribunals.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** This Government is committed to providing a standard of interpreter that meets the needs of those requiring support in the justice system. My department continues closely to monitor the language services contract and target work and investment to further drive improvements and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

An independent review of interpreter quality standards was published, together

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

with the coalition Government's response, on the Ministry of Justice website on 17 December 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-24/HL773/>

**The review of interpreter standards referred to in the answer can be read at**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/388333/matrix-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/388333/matrix-report.pdf)

**and the Government response can be read at**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/395193/government-response-to-matrix-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395193/government-response-to-matrix-review.pdf)

### Habitual Residence Test

**Lord McColl of Dulwich** [HL541] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the habitual residence test introduced in 2014 does not exclude victims of human trafficking who are nationals of European Economic Area countries from accessing Jobseeker's Allowance.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The habitual residence test is critical to the integrity of the benefits system. To be eligible for income-related Jobseeker's Allowance, EEA migrants must be habitually resident in the UK and provide evidence that they have been living here in the three month period prior to their benefit claim.

Victims of modern slavery are eligible for support through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), including accommodation, for at least 45 days. In many cases victims receive support for a longer period and are likely to be able to provide evidence that they meet the habitual residence test when they exit NRM support. The Home Office and DWP are working together to make it easier for those victims whose circumstances make it difficult to provide such evidence to do so.

EEA Nationals who are identified as victims of human trafficking through the NRM may qualify for discretionary leave where, for instance, they are helping police with an investigation or where their personal circumstances are such that it would be detrimental for the individual to leave the UK. EEA Nationals granted discretionary leave for those reasons would be exempt from the habitual residence test.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-16/HL541/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Philip Davies** [3777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the highest number of times is that a person has taken the Life in the UK test.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The highest number of times recorded that an individual has taken the Life in the UK test is 64.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3777/>

### Immigration: Commonwealth

**Barry Sheerman** [3436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Commonwealth countries who entered the UK in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14 and (e) 2014-15 remained for more than a year without permission.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** It is not possible accurately to quantify the number of immigration offenders in the UK accurately as, by their very nature, those that deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

illegally are not officially recorded until they come to light and are arrested. Exit Checks were introduced on 8 April 2015 on all scheduled commercial international air, sea and rail routes. Over time, these checks will improve our ability to identify individuals who have overstayed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-22/3436/>

### Immigration: Commonwealth

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Barry Sheerman** [3575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Commonwealth countries were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14 and (e) 2014-15.

**Barry Sheerman** [3589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Commonwealth countries were refused indefinite leave to remain in the UK in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14 and (e) 2014-15.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The available information is given in the table below:

Year	Grants	Refusals
2010	123,901	8,865
2011	90,437	5,935
2012	74,915	3,007
2013	87,692	4,818

Data for the calendar year 2014 are planned to be published on 27 August 2014

The latest Home Office immigration statistics relating to persons granted and refused settlement (indefinite leave to enter or remain) by nationality are published in the "Immigration Statistics January to March 2015", (settlement tables se\_03 and se\_06), available from the Library of the House and the Home Office website:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-22/3575/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-22/3589/>

### Immigration

**Nicholas Soames** [4443] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Office for National Statistics' latest annual population statistics to June 2014, what steps she is taking to ensure that annual net migration is brought back down to the tens of thousands.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Uncontrolled, mass immigration makes it difficult to maintain social cohesion, puts pressure on public services, and can force down wages. That's why we are working to reduce net migration.

Under the last government, we cracked down on visa abuse, including removing licences from nearly 900 bogus colleges, and introduced the 2014 Immigration Act to create controls on accessing benefits and services which are among the tightest in Europe.

But this government will go further still. Our new Immigration Bill will create a new offence of illegal working and extend our deport-first-appeal-later approach to

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

ensure even more illegal migrants are removed from the UK.

We are also working with the independent Migration Advisory Committee to reduce economic migration from outside the EU, and we will reform our labour market rules to crack down on the exploitation of low-skilled workers.

As the Prime Minister has set out, we will address the incentives for migration from the EU which have led to mass immigration from Europe. We will deliver these proposals, and our commitments in the manifesto, with a new Immigration Taskforce, chaired by the Prime Minister, which will ensure every part of government plays a part in helping control immigration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-26/4443/>

### Migration

**Lord Judd** [HL737] To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategic estimates they are making of the likely growth in the number of political refugees, economic migrants and those displaced by conflict and climate change in the next five, 10, 20 and 50 years; and what plans they have to respond effectively to the political, social and economic consequences nationally and internationally.

**Reply from Baroness Anelay of St Johns:** The British Government conducts periodic strategic reviews of countries and thematic issues that affect UK interests and how we respond to them. Some of these global issues will generate medium and long term migrant flows, within and between regions around the World. These trends are extremely unpredictable and therefore difficult to forecast. The size and composition of migrant flows can also vary dramatically over time, given the large range of factors driving migration.

We do, however, seek to identify and address the root causes. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's long term security and prosperity agendas aim to help create the right conditions for growth, security and stability, and the Department for International Development's developmental and humanitarian assistance help provide the stable conditions that allow people to remain in their homelands.

Furthermore, we have established a new, more strategic approach to work in conflict-affected states where the UK has key interests, with a £1 billion Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. It will help ensure our work in fragile or conflict-affected states supports the full range of UK objectives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-23/HL737/>

### Immigration: Olympic Games 2012

**Philip Daviews** [3489] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who came to the UK to (a) take part in and (b) spectate at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have (i) remained in the UK illegally, (ii) applied for or been granted asylum and (iii) been granted another form of legitimate leave to remain.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not keep a running record of those who came to the UK to spectate at the Olympic Games. Close to 70,000 records of individuals who were accredited by LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games) have been investigated, however. These individuals were subject to immigration control. This would include athletes, coaches, sponsors, etc. but these records do not include those who came merely to watch the Games.

At the time of the investigations, 82 of those 70,000 individuals had claimed asylum (of which 52 have been granted) and 50 had not returned but were in



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

possession of another form of legitimate leave.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-22/3489/>

### Immigrants: English Language

**Philip Davies** [3767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been arrested in connection with English language test fraud in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such people were (a) held as an immigration detainee, (b) released and (c) deported.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Data on the operational response to the abuse of Secure English Language Testing is published quarterly in the Home Office Transparency data which can be accessed at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-may-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-may-2015)

The most recent figures are published to the end of Quarter 1 calendar year 2015 and include the number of individuals served removal notices and detained, all of whom will have been arrested, and the number of those who had at some time been detained who had subsequently been removed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3767/>

### British Nationality: English Language

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL702] To ask Her Majesty's Government why only the examinations offered by the International English Language Testing System and Trinity College London were deemed suitable for English language tests used for applications for citizenship.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Following significant abuse identified in the provision of English language testing the Home Office commissioned an independent review. A key outcome was the need to develop new and robust business and commercial requirements. A competitive procurement exercise secured two Concession Service Providers for the UK, Trinity and IELTS SELT Consortium and one Concession Service Provider overseas, IELTS SELT Consortium. Both Concession Service Providers met the new business and commercial requirements of the Concession Agreements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-22/HL702/>

### British Nationality: English Language

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL703] To ask Her Majesty's Government what risk assessment they have undertaken regarding the decision to appoint only two examination boards for English language tests used for applications for citizenship.

**Lord Bates:** The decision to appoint two Concession Service Providers was based on the market's ability to meet the Home Office's business and commercial requirements. Two Concession Service Providers were able to meet both the new examination centre control measures and geographic coverage in the UK and Overseas. The new Concession Agreements have improved both control and coverage requirements compared to previous arrangements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-22/HL703/>

### Immigrants: Infectious Diseases

**Baroness Suttie** [HL970] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether records are kept on the proportion of new arrivals at immigration centres who have communicable diseases.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton:** Healthcare in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) in England is commissioned by NHS England.

Each of the IRCs has a primary healthcare service provided on site. The range of healthcare provision typically available includes initial health screening and risk assessment, including routine treatment of evident infection and active case finding for diseases commonly found among detainees including pulmonary tuberculosis, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections (if indicated by the initial assessment).

IRCs currently operate under the Detention Centre Rules and Operating Standards for the purposes of health screening and access to a general practitioner (GP) targets for initial healthcare screening and assessment which means all detainees to be seen by a nurse for an initial health assessment within 2 hours of admission and to be seen by a GP within 24 hours of admission (which may vary on assessment by competent nurse). Any health problems identified, tests or treatments prescribed and their outcomes are recorded on computerised health informatics systems in IRCs (e.g. SystmOne) and information can be shared between prisons and IRCs.

IRCs, like prisons, are required to notify Public Health England Centres' Health Protection Teams of cases or outbreaks of reportable diseases. This information is collated at national level by the Health & Justice Team.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-30/HL970/>

### Immigrants: Tuberculosis

**Baroness Suttie** [HL591] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on screening for tuberculosis in reception centres for migrants arriving in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lords Bates:** All detainees are seen by a nurse within 2 hours of arrival at an immigration removal centre for a health screening. The purpose of the initial health assessment is to identify any immediate and significant mental or physical health needs, the presence of a communicable disease and whether the individual may have been the victim of torture.

The individual will be referred straight away to a GP if the nurse feels an issue has been identified which requires immediate attention. Otherwise detainees are given an appointment to see the GP within 24 hours.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL591/>

### Immigrants: Pay

**Stewart McDonald** [4487] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on the economy of non-EU migrants working in the UK having to leave the UK if they earn less than £35,000 per annum.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012. The impact assessment is available on the gov.uk website at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4487/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Overseas Students: Scotland

**Gavin Newlands** [3282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the economic effect on universities in Scotland of the removal of the post-study work visa.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office produced an Impact Assessment in respect of its reforms of student routes in June 2011, which can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257825/ia-students-.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257825/ia-students-.pdf)

We closed the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) route in 2012 because too many individuals in the route were unemployed or in low-skilled work, and too many were using the student route merely as a means to work in the UK, without any intention of study.

Under the current provisions, there is no limit on the number of genuine students who can come to the UK. Nor is there a limit on the number of graduates who can remain in the UK after their studies. All that non-EEA graduates of UK universities require to stay on to work is a graduate level job with an appropriate salary and an employer who is a Tier 2 sponsor.

The number of non-EU domiciled students enrolling at Scottish higher education institutions has not declined: in 2013/14 it was 28,610, compared with 28,500 in 2011/12.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-19/3282/>

### Immigration Policies (International Students)

**Steven Paterson:** What recent discussions [the Home Secretary] has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the potential effect of the Government's immigration policies on the number of international students enrolling in UK universities. [900752]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire):** The Home Secretary regularly meets her Cabinet counterparts to discuss a range of issues, including how we can continue to attract the brightest and the best to study at our world-class institutions, while also bearing down on abuse. The UK remains the second most popular destination for university students.

**Steven Paterson:** ... In the 2013-14 academic year, 1,685 non-EU students studied at Stirling University, but the UK Government's decision in 2012 to abolish the post-study work visa means that at the end of their studies they cannot remain and contribute to the local economy or the national economy of Scotland. Given that reconsideration of these visas has been recommended under Smith commission proposals, will the Minister undertake to reintroduce them or at least devolve the powers to do so?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** It is important to understand that the numbers coming to our universities from outside the EU continue to grow. In the year ending September 2014, there was a 3% increase in the number of university-sponsored study visa applications for higher education institutions in Scotland. The hon. Gentleman raises the issues relating to the Smith commission and, certainly at official level, discussions have continued. However, I would highlight the risk: post-study work was abused—there is a route already in existence to allow that at the appropriate salary level—but obviously we will continue to discuss the issue.

**Andrew Bridgen:** Does my right hon. Friend agree that there are no limits on the number of foreign students who can come here, provided they meet requirements for speaking the English language and educational achievement, and as long as they can support



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

themselves while they are in our country?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** My hon. Friend is absolutely right that there are no limits on the number of students whom we welcome to this country and who enrich our universities, but our focus is on ensuring that they leave at the end of their studies. It should not be about work; it should be about study.

[900763] **Deidre Brock:** ... does the Minister agree that there is an economic case to be made for greatly expanding the number of international students at university on these islands, that the income derived from them helps universities to maintain their standards, and that allowing young graduates to remain after their studies and make a contribution to the economy, paying taxes, growing businesses and so on, is an economic benefit that we would be foolish to shun?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** As I have already indicated, there is no cap on the number of students coming to study at our world-leading universities, but the National Audit Office reported back in 2009-10, under the arrangements that existed under the last Labour Government, that 50,000 students may have come here to work and not to study. That is the abuse we have seen when we take our eye off the ball, and that is why we have made those reforms and why we need to continue to focus on the overall student situation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0001.htm#1507066000023>

### International Students: Post-study Visa

**Lord Holmes of Richmond:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider reintroducing a post-study visa for international students studying at bona fide higher education institutions in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates):** My Lords, the UK continues to have an excellent offer for international graduates wishing to undertake skilled work in the UK after their studies. There is no limit to the number of students who can remain, if they secure a graduate job. The Government have no plans to reintroduce the previous post-study work route, which saw large numbers of fraudulent applications from graduates who remained unemployed or in low-skilled work.

**Lord Holmes of Richmond:** My Lords, there is an economic imperative: we are pretty much at full employment. We do not just need to attract the brightest and the best from around the world to come to study in the United Kingdom, we also want them to stay and play their part, be economically active and then, when they go home, be great ambassadors for the United Kingdom—what a fabulous example of soft power. Does my noble friend agree that we need to focus on and grasp this economic opportunity, and will he also agree to meet with me and other interested Peers to discuss how we may improve the current situation?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** I am, of course, very happy to meet with my noble friend on this important issue. I agree totally with him that the offer that we have for international students plays a significant part in our economy. They bring experience and investment into our universities. However, I think that there is a problem with the messages that we send to students. In some parts of the world, people say that we put a limit on the number of students but there is no limit on the number of students to bona fide universities. They say that we send out a message that they are not welcome to stay, but we have said that they can stay, providing they are in a graduate-level job, an internship or a doctoral programme; they are genuinely looking for work; or if they are setting up a business. That is the right balance, but we have got to get that message out there and I am happy to meet with my noble friend to discuss how we do that.

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Baroness Rebuck:** My Lords, the Royal College of Art, a postgraduate institution in which I declare an interest, launches more new student start-ups than any other UK university. This year, however, its most innovative, international social entrepreneurs and inventors, its design engineers and healthcare innovators, who would have set up UK businesses upon graduation, will now return home instead. Can the Minister begin to assess the loss of enterprise and competitiveness of ending most—and it is most—tier 1 visas for budding entrepreneurs, and also the impact of skill shortages on specialist companies reluctant to deal with the increased red tape and hurdles of tier 2 visas?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We have a specific tier 1 graduate entrepreneur visa whereby people are encouraged to stay, particularly if they are working in the area of technology, which the noble Baroness is talking about. We have systems whereby people are given 12 months to explore where they can do, in particular, a doctorate degree. I would be very interested to discuss further with the noble Baroness why people are making that decision when the rules have been designed so that the brightest and best can stay here and contribute to the UK economy.

**Lord Elystan-Morgan:** Does the Minister agree that the time has now clearly come for Her Majesty's Government to say that the number of non-EU students who come to our shores every year—well over 100,000—and whose contribution, culturally and economically, is massive, should be taken entirely out of the immigration equation? Does he also agree that it is only by acting in that simple, straightforward way that the Prime Minister's pledge that immigration would be reduced below 100,000 can be put properly to the test?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Obviously I respect what the noble Lord says, but we follow the UN guidelines on this. The ONS also follows them when it is producing the statistics, and they are used in the US, Australia and Canada on pretty much the same basis—that is, students are included in the figures. Of course, speaking as a Home Office Minister responsible in your Lordships' House for answering questions on immigration, it would be very convenient if we could lift 140,000 or so out of the statistics, but that would do nothing to tackle the real problem. Last year 135,000 students came here and only 44,000 left, so 91,000 remain. We cannot be serious about immigration without tackling that problem.

**Baroness Garden of Frogmal:** What discussions have the Government had directly with universities to determine from them what impact the closure of the visa route has had on their intake of non-European overseas students?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** I am very happy to meet representatives of the universities. In fact, earlier this year the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration produced a very helpful report entitled *UK Post Study Work Opportunities for International Students*, which drew on evidence from universities. I have read it, and it may be helpful to follow it up with universities to make sure that we get the message out on what we are selling and what they should be selling—that is, world-class education, in which we specialise, not low-skilled employment.

**Baroness O'Cathain:** My Lords, some time ago, as a member of a digital study that we were doing in this House, a group of us went to Imperial College. We were told categorically by graduate students there that they would have to leave within two or three months of finalising their studies. The Minister is saying that they do not have to do that, so why do we not get that message across? I am hearing that from students everywhere, so they are getting misinformation or a lack of information. I think that it would be to the benefit of us all to get that message across.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Imperial College is a world-leading university and we are very proud of it. I want to be clear on the specific point that my noble friend made.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

If someone is not going into a graduate-level job, they will have four months following the completion of their course to look for work. If they do not do that but are able to find graduate-level employment, they are able to apply for a tier 2 visa. If they secure a temporary internship, they can stay for 12 months. If they are completing a doctorate, they can stay for 12 months, and if they are setting up a business, they are particularly welcome and can stay longer.

**Lord Winston:** My Lords, in the field of science there is no question but that a student is at his most productive and most useful immediately after completing his doctorate. Practically speaking, we are currently training what will be our opposition over the next 10 years, because these graduates are going back to their own countries and developing technology which would be highly useful to the British economy. Surely we need to try to do something about that.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** That is a fair point, and as regards STEM subjects, the noble Lord is absolutely right. We also need to remember that there is a development point. Due to the world-class education that we have, many people come to this country from less-developed economies. The idea of them taking their skills and experiences of British life and culture back to those countries is also an incredibly important part of the soft power that my noble friend Lord Holmes began his Question with.

**Lord Cormack:** Will my noble friend reflect for a moment and consider the wisdom of putting in writing for every higher education institution what he said to this House this afternoon, so that all potential graduates know what the position will truly be when they graduate?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Obviously my ministerial colleague has responsibility for universities within BIS. I will certainly talk with him, and also with my honourable friend at the Home Office, James Brokenshire, who has responsibility for this area there, and see if we can do just that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150701-0001.htm#15070130000448>

### Overseas Students: Employment

**Tulip Siddiq** [4881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what restrictions on working hours and type of work there are on international students with tier 4 (general) visas; and what plans she has to place further working hours restrictions on such students.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Tier 4 (General) students studying courses at degree level or above at Higher Education Institutions (HEI) are permitted to work for 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during vacations. Tier 4 (General) students studying courses below degree level at HEIs, or studying at publicly-funded further education colleges, are permitted to work for 10 hours per week during term time and full-time during vacations. In addition, courses of study may include a work placement, provided it is an integral and assessed part of the course.

Tier 4 (General) students cannot be self-employed or employed as a professional sports person, an entertainer, or a doctor in training, except where the student is studying on a recognised foundation programme under Tier 4.

We keep our all policies under review. We continue to have a highly competitive offer for international students, which allows the brightest and the best to study at our world-class universities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-30/4881/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Visas: Appeals

**Keith Vaz** [4704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appeals have been granted following refusal of the granting of a settlement visa since 1 January 2015.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Until 31st March 2015, no appeal outcomes have been recorded on appeals related to in-country settlement cases where the application was refused between 1st January 2015 and 31st March 2015.

Between 1st January and 31st March 2015, 228 appeals were allowed at the First-tier Tribunal which related to an earlier in-country settlement application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4704/>

### Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

**Kirsty Blackman** [5551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her Answer of 2 July 2015 to Question 4295, if she will make it her policy to ensure that current employers of workers on tier 2 visas whose immigration status is changing as a result of 2011 immigration rules changes requiring workers who have been in the UK for more five years to earn more than £35,000 gross per annum are aware that these changes are now taking effect; and if she will provide support to such employers to identify employees whose immigration status may now change.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** As a condition of sponsoring a worker under Tier 2, sponsoring employers are required to monitor the immigration status of their workers.

To ensure sponsors are aware of changes to Immigration Rules, UK Visas & Immigration regularly sends online notifications to sponsors, and the appropriate guidance documents are updated to reflect changes to the Immigration Rules. UK Visas & Immigration also operates a Business Helpdesk to support sponsors with any enquiries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-07-03/5551/>

### Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

**Kirsty Blackman** [4295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department provides to employers sponsoring workers on Tier 2 visas on potential changes to their employees' immigration status as a result of 2011 immigration rules changes requiring workers who have been in the UK more than five years to earn more than £35,000 gross per annum; and what steps she is taking to help employers support such employees.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office's published guidance for sponsors advises employers that migrant workers may only be sponsored for a maximum of six years under Tier 2.

Employers and employees were notified that changes to settlement rules would apply to Tier 2 migrants who entered the route in April 2011, so have had more than four years to plan accordingly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-25/4295/>

### Immigration: Middle East

**Ben Howlett** [5053] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the eligibility criteria are for entry to the UK for citizens of (a) Palestine and (b) Israel.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Non-EEA nationals seeking entry to the UK for any purpose must meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules. The Rules set



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

out the criteria that applications for entry clearance, leave to enter or remain must meet to qualify for entry. Applicants must produce either a valid passport or travel document that satisfactorily establishes their identity and nationality or citizenship. Nationals or citizens of Israel, who hold a full Israeli passport, do not require a visa to come to the UK as a visitor or for any other purpose, for less than six months. Holders of Palestinian travel documents require a visa to come to the UK for any purpose in the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-07-01/5053/>

### Children: Immigrants

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett** [HL748] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to revise the statutory guidance *Working together to Safeguard Children* to make specific reference to the considerations that arise in the cases of destitute families with no recourse to public funds seeking accommodation and financial support from local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, in the light of the recent report by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society *Safeguarding children from destitution*.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** The statutory guidance, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, is already clear that professionals should put the needs of children first, and take the right action to promote the welfare of children and keep them safe. We continue to keep this guidance under review.

As the report notes, under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. One instance where a child, including a destitute child, is taken to be 'in need' for these purposes, is if they are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development or to have the opportunity of doing so, without the provision of services for the child by a local authority. This may include providing accommodation and subsistence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-23/HL748/>

### Children: Immigrants

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett** [HL749] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to take steps to reduce the time taken to resolve the immigration cases of families that have recourse to public funds and are supported by local authorities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, in the light of the recent report by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We work closely with local authorities to ensure that immigration decisions in cases receiving local authority support are made as quickly as possible. The No Recourse to Public Funds Connect database provides a route into the Home Office for local authorities on individual cases, so that these can be dealt with expeditiously. Where migrants granted leave to remain on family grounds show that they are destitute or that there are exceptional circumstances, they are given recourse to public funds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-23/HL749/>

### Refugees

**Mary Creagh** [3737] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from each country have been accepted by the UK in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Refugee status is conferred following a grant of



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

asylum. An asylum seeker only becomes a refugee once asylum has been granted. Not all asylum seekers are deemed to be refugees and not all refugees claim asylum. The Home Office publishes annual and quarterly statistics on grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave and other grants at initial decision, to main applicants and dependants. The information, broken down by year of application and nationality is available on Table as\_02 of the latest release 'Immigration Statistics, January – March 2015'.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/427906/asylum1-q1-2015-tabs.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/427906/asylum1-q1-2015-tabs.ods)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3737/>

### Asylum Seekers (Syria)

**Owen Thompson:** How many people from Syria have been (a) granted and (b) declined asylum in the last four years. [900747]

**Reply from The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire):** Since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, the UK has received more than 6,800 Syrian asylum claims and granted asylum or other forms of leave to more than 4,200 Syrians.

**Owen Thompson:** Given that Lebanon is currently accommodating a Syrian refugee population of somewhere near a quarter of its entire population, does the Minister agree that the international community, including the UK, needs to provide far more places for resettlement, and other opportunities such as flexible family reunion places, to relieve Syria's neighbours of some of the responsibility they are struggling to cope with?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Given the numbers and the scale of the challenge, the focus should be on regional aid in the areas affected. That is why the International Development Secretary has committed another £100 million to assist in tackling the Syrian crisis, with the total reaching £900 million. We are focused on the most vulnerable individuals, which is why we have been operating the vulnerable persons relocation scheme. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0001.htm#1507066000019>

### Refugees: Syria

**David Hanson [4387]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities have agreed to take refugees under the resettlement programme for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees programme; and how many such refugees will be taken by each such authority.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** A number of local authorities already participate in the scheme and several more have expressed an interest in participating. As the scheme is based on vulnerability, including women and children at risk, people with medical needs and survivors of torture and violence, it would not be appropriate for us to release details of where individuals are currently being placed or where they may be placed in the future, as this may undermine their privacy and recovery.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-25/4387/>

### Asylum: Libya

**Madeleine Moon [5129]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications were made for asylum in the UK by Libyans between June 2014 and the end of November 2014; how many Libyans who made such applications (a) remain in

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the UK awaiting a decision and (b) have been refused asylum; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Figures on asylum applications and initial decisions are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as\_01q. The following table shows the number of asylum applications by nationals of Libya that were made, refused (based on initial decisions), and pending in quarter 3 (July-September) and quarter 4 (October-December) 2014, for main applicants.

Quarter	Total applications	Total refusals	Total pending
Q3 2014	118	30	336
Q4 2014	126	59	410

(1) Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) 'Pending' cases are those asylum applications, including fresh claims, lodged since 1 April 2006 which are still under consideration at the end of the reference period.

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January – March 2015 is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and the Library of the House.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-07-01/5129/>

### Asylum: Eritrea

**Patrick Grady [5254]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Eritrean citizens have been (a) granted and (b) refused asylum in the UK since 2010.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The following table shows the latest published number of nationals of Eritrea that have been granted and refused asylum or other form of protection, based on initial decisions for main applicants between 2010 and Quarter 1 2015.

Number of nationals of Eritrea granted asylum or other form of protection and refusals in the UK (main applicants), 2010 to 2015 Q1, based on initial decisions (1)

Year/Quarter	Total Grants (2)	Total Refusals
2010	558	364
2011	647	221
2012	589	118
2013	787	173
2014	2,156	328
2015 Q1	543	160

(1) Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) Total grants include: a) asylum grants b) Humanitarian Protection, c) Discretionary Leave, d) Grants under family and private life rules, which relate to the introduction of a new approach to Article 8 of the European Convention on

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

(Human Rights, from 9 July 2012, e) Leave Outside the Rules, which was introduced for those refused asylum from 1 April 2013; and f) UASC leave, which was introduced for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children refused asylum but eligible for temporary leave from 1 April 2013.

The figures provided in the table are published by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release, in Table as\_01 and as\_01q.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on asylum applications and initial decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January – March 2015 is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and the Library of the House.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-07-01/5254/>

### Refugees: Syria

**David Simpson** [4402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the number of Syrian refugees entering the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) was launched in January 2014 to provide sanctuary in the UK for displaced Syrians who are most at risk. The scheme runs in parallel with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Syria Humanitarian Admission Programme. The VPR scheme is based on need rather than quota and we envisage that it will support several hundred people over three years. From the start of the scheme until the end of March 2015, 187 of the most vulnerable Syrians have been relocated to the UK. At the Global Security Forum on 19 June, the Prime Minister announced the scheme would be expanded to a greater number of vulnerable people who cannot be supported in the region.

The Government will also continue to consider Syrian asylum claims under our normal rules. Since the crisis began in 2011 the UK has granted asylum or other forms of leave to over 4,200 Syrian asylum seekers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-25/4402/>

### Asylum

**Hilary Benn** [4645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) applied for and (b) been granted asylum from (i) Syria, (ii) Eritrea, (iii) Afghanistan, (iv) Somalia, (v) Nigeria, (vi) Palestine, (vii) Iraq and (viii) Libya in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The following table shows the latest published number of nationals of (i) Syria, (ii) Eritrea, (iii) Afghanistan, (iv) Somalia, (v) Nigeria, (vi) Palestine, (vii) Iraq and (viii) Libya in each of the last five years that have (a) applied for and (b) been granted asylum or an alternative form of protection in the UK, based on initial decisions for main applicants.

The figures provided in the table are published by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release, in Table as\_01.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on asylum applications and initial decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics January – March 2015 is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and the Library of the House.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

*The lengthy table can be read at*

[http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/386289/original/PQ%204645%20Table\(1\).xlsx](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/386289/original/PQ%204645%20Table(1).xlsx)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4645/>

### Asylum

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Philip Davies** [3774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many failed asylum seekers are in the UK; and what the longest period is for which a failed asylum seeker has remained in the UK.

### Illegal Immigrants

**Philip Davies** [3775] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants are still in the UK following final rejection of their application; and what the longest period is for which an illegal immigrant has remained in the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The data requested could be provided only by examining individual case records, which would result in disproportionate cost. It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of immigration offenders in the UK as, by their very nature, those that deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country illegally are not officially recorded until they come to light and are arrested. Exit Checks were introduced on 8 April 2015 on all scheduled commercial international air, sea and rail routes. Over time, Exit Checks will improve our ability to identify those who have overstayed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3774/>

### Asylum

**The Marquess of Lothian** [HL627] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom accepts a responsibility to grant asylum to refugees fleeing countries where in the last 10 years British military forces have been involved; and if not, why not.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of providing protection to those who need it and we fulfil our responsibilities to all who claim asylum in the UK, irrespective of whether British military forces have previously been engaged in the country of origin.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-18/HL627/>

### Asylum: Appeals

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**The Earl of Sandwich** [HL788] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the number of lay members sitting in asylum cases, and (2) the regional distribution of lay members who sit in asylum cases; and what steps they are taking to promote the sitting of lay members in asylum cases, in particular those concerned with appeals by foreign criminals against deportation involving complex assessments of Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

**The Earl of Sandwich** [HL789] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review how the contribution of lay members in asylum cases is treated following the Court of Appeal judgment in *PF (Nigeria) v the Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2015] EWCA Civ 251, in which the importance of the lay member's interpretation on matters of fact was highlighted.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** HMCTS does not routinely assess the number of lay members sitting in asylum cases or their regional distribution by either location or

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

appeal type, as the composition of panels is a judicial function.

The First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Composition of Tribunal) Order 2008 states that the composition of Tribunal panels is the responsibility of the Senior President of Tribunals. The need for non-legal members is continuously assessed by the Immigration and Asylum Chambers and sitting days are made available based on workloads and requirements set out under the Senior President's delegated powers.

The contribution and deployment of non-legal members is a matter for the Senior President of Tribunals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-24/HL788/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-24/HL789/>

### Asylum: Deportation

**Stuart McDonald** [3447] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to monitor the safety of people who have been removed or deported from the UK after their asylum application has been refused (a) on the basis that internal relocation to avoid persecution would be possible and (b) for other reasons.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office does not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK as they have been found not to need protection and therefore that they are not at real risk of harm. Each case is considered on its individual merits including, where relevant, the reasonableness of internal relocation. Returns are only undertaken when the Home Office and courts deem it is safe to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-22/3447/>

### Deportation

**The Marquess of Lothian** [HL626] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their policy of returning migrants to their countries of origin excludes for humanitarian reasons certain countries of origin; and if so, which countries.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Her Majesty's Government believes that the right approach is to consider the protection needs of individuals on an individual basis, and does not adopt a blanket approach to any one country.

Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Those found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Those who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-18/HL626/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Tulip Siddiq** [4882] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the average length of time it takes for local authorities to find accommodation in the community for a person who has been detained in an immigration removal centre and subsequently been found to be under 18 following



## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

a Merton compliant age assessment.

**Tulip Siddiq** [4883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the average length of time it takes for local authorities to conduct a Merton compliant age assessment for an individual held in an immigration removal centre and classified as an age dispute case.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** It is not possible to provide information in such cases, without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Guidance has recently been issued by the Home Office and the Association of Directors of Children's Services to remind all the agencies involved in age dispute cases of the importance of working together to resolve them as quickly as possible. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/age-assessment-joint-working-instruction>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-30/4883/>

#### Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Hylton** [HL586] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the results of their investigations into the matters raised by the Channel 4 News programme on Yarl's Wood shown on 2 March; and whether they plan to publish those results.

#### Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons Review

**Lord Hylton** [HL587] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to receive the independent review of the welfare of detainees in immigration removal centres; and whether they plan to publish that review.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Home Office has been working closely with Serco, the supplier at Yarl's Wood, to address the matters raised by Channel 4 News.

They have demonstrated their shared commitment to ensuring the dignity and welfare of detainees at the centre with the action they have taken to address the concerns raised in the programme and have made good progress in delivering against our agreed action plan. Serco have commissioned their own independent review of the culture and staffing at Yarl's Wood led by Kate Lampard, which is expected to report in the autumn.

The welfare in detention review, commissioned by the Home Secretary in February 2015, which is being led by Stephen Shaw, former prisons and probation ombudsman, is expected to report in September. The review has been asked to prioritise an assessment of conditions at Yarl's Wood within the broader review of detention performance and policies. Ministers will publish the report by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL586/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL587/>

#### Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Ahmed** [HL605] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will continue to provide religious and spiritual support for the detainees at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Immigration: Detention Centres

**Lord Ahmed** [HL607] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of whether MITIE has provided adequate amounts of food to Muslim detainees at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres during the month of Ramadan and at the time of sunset.

**Lord Ahmed** [HL608] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have approved the withdrawal of religious support for detainees at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The provision of religious and spiritual support for detainees in immigration removal centres (IRC) is a statutory requirement of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, IRC Operating Standards and is a contractual or service level specification for all centre operators. These provisions have not and will not be withdrawn at any centre.

Arrangements for the observance of Ramadan are in place at all IRCs. This includes special catering arrangements to allow the breaking of the fast at the prescribed time. The Home Office is consulted about the arrangements to ensure that they are appropriate.

There have been no complaints about the amount of food provided at the Heathrow centres and catering provision will be monitored during Ramadan as it is throughout the year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL605/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL607/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL608/>

### Immigration: Detention Centres

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Ahmed** [HL606] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the standard of the services provided by the private outsourcing group MITIE at Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centres.

#### Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre

**Lord Ahmed** [HL609] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the hygiene and stability of conditions of the Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre; and what actions, if any, they have taken to ensure the hygiene and stability of the Centre.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** All immigration removal centres operated by the private sector, including Harmondsworth and Colnbrook, have their contracts managed by a central commercial team. The Home Office also has staff based in each centre to monitor contract delivery and compliance.

The current level of services provided, including hygiene, is consistent, compliant with relevant standards and is considered by the Home Office to be satisfactory. Meetings take place with the contractor, on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis (at a more senior level) where any issues will be addressed.

Moreover, on 9 February the Home Secretary announced an independent review of detainee welfare in immigration detention, led by the former prisons ombudsman Stephen Shaw. The review is expected to report in September and will seek to identify whether improvements can be made to safeguard the health and wellbeing of detainees across the immigration detention estate, short term

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

holding facilities, and those being escorted in the UK. The Government will publish the report by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL606/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL609/>

### Human Trafficking

**Lord McColl of Dulwich** [HL544] To ask Her Majesty's Government, for each financial year from 2009–10 to date, how many victims of trafficking who are nationals of European Economic Area countries have (1) applied for discretionary leave to remain, (2) been granted discretionary leave to remain, and (3) been refused discretionary leave to remain.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** It is considered that disproportionate cost are applicable to aspects (1) and (3) of this PQ as there are no means, other than manual, to gather the necessary statistical information to provide an accurate figure for disclosure.

In reference to aspect (2) Her Majesty's Government provides the following statistical data in financial years as requested:

Year	Numbers of people granted discretionary leave
2009/2010	13
2010/2011	13
2011/2012	11
2012/2013	8
2013/2014	9
2014/2015	30

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-16/HL544/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Margaret Ferrier (243) Post-study work visas** – That this House supports the re-opening of the Tier 1 (post-study work) route to enable foreign students to remain in the UK; recognises the benefit of allowing qualified, hard-working people to apply for the right to live and work in the UK; acknowledges the contribution that students from outwith the EU make to the UK's economy and society; notes that in Scotland there have been overwhelmingly positive cross-sector and cross-party approval to proposals to re-introduce the post-study work visa; further notes that the Scottish Government has gathered over 100 signatures from professors and business executives in support of the re-introduction of the post-study work visa; and urges the Government to reconsider its approach to immigration policy for the benefit of each constituent nation of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/243>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### Press Releases

#### **UK must take action to tackle migrant crisis**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/UK-must-take-action-to-tackle-migrant-crisis-1b0f.aspx>

#### **Moral obligation to help migrants**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Moral-obligation-to-help-migrants-1acb.aspx>

#### **Germans in Britain**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Germans-in-Britain-1ae5.aspx>

#### **STUC remains deeply concerned for welfare of detainees in light of HMIP Report**

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/1173/stuc-on-hmip-report>

### New Publications

#### **Report: Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre**

<https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2015/07/Dungavel-web-2015.pdf>

#### **Not So Straightforward: the need for qualified legal support in refugee family reunion**

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/About%20us/Not%20so%20straightforward%20refugee%20family%20reunion%20report%202015.pdf>

#### **Rethinking 'Vulnerability' in Detention: a Crisis of Harm**

[http://detentionforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/rethinkingvulnerability\\_8july.pdf](http://detentionforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/rethinkingvulnerability_8july.pdf)

#### **Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015: Settling In**

[http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2015-settling-in\\_9789264234024-en#page1](http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/indicators-of-immigrant-integration-2015-settling-in_9789264234024-en#page1)

#### **Immigration and the UK's productivity challenge**

<http://niesr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Immigration%20and%20the%20UK%27s%20Productivity%20Challenge.pdf>

#### **European Migration Network Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/docs/annual-policy/2014/00.emn\\_annual\\_report\\_on\\_immigration\\_and\\_asylum\\_synthesis\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/annual-policy/2014/00.emn_annual_report_on_immigration_and_asylum_synthesis_report.pdf)

### News

#### **Britain is home to one in five new European citizens**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11711922/Britain-is-home-to-one-in-five-new-European-citizens.html>

#### **Fast-track asylum appeal system suspended by government**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33371814>

#### **More than 100 asylum seekers to walk free after detention system quashed**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/02/asylum-seekers-release-fast-track-detention-ruling>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Asylum seekers freed as fast-track scheme is halted**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4486538.ece>

#### **Damages for asylum cases that were fast-tracked**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/damages-for-asylum-cases-that-were-fast-tracked.131010653>

#### **Detained asylum seekers to be able to apply for bail**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/29/detained-asylum-seekers-bail-home-office-court>

#### **Theresa May backs down and agrees to pay 'substantive damages' to asylum seekers unfairly locked up after arriving in Britain**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3148753/Theresa-backs-agrees-pay-substantive-damages-asylum-seekers-unfairly-locked-arriving-Britain.html>

#### **Hundreds of torture victims may sue UK over asylum detention**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/03/torture-victims-may-sue-uk-asylum-detention>

#### **Hundreds of asylum seekers to walk free from detention after ministers defeated in legal fight over fast-track scheme**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3147493/More-100-asylum-seekers-walk-free-detention-ministers-defeated-legal-fight-fast-track-scheme.html>

#### **'The happiest day of my life': women of Yarl's Wood celebrate abrupt release**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/02/women-yarls-wood-celebrate-release>

#### **Watchdog: People are held for "unreasonably long" periods at Dungavel**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/watchdog-people-are-held-for-unreasonably-long-periods-at-dungavel.131277579>

#### **'New Irish' are most educated migrants in EU**

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/homeV2/article1577073.ece>

#### **The real land of opportunity: why it is best to be a migrant in Britain**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11714685/The-real-land-of-opportunity-why-it-is-best-to-be-a-migrant-in-Britain.html>

#### **Migrants have far more to offer than hard work and wealth creation, yet too many exist in isolation from the rest of society**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/migrants-have-far-more-to-offer-than-hard-work-and-wealth-creation-yet-too-many-exist-in-isolation-from-the-rest-of-society-10366361.html>

#### **Expat families torn apart by UK visa requirements**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/expat-money/11713544/Expat-families-torn-apart-by-UK-visa-requirements.html>

#### **Faith leaders demand that detention period for immigrants is limited to maximum of 28 days**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/faith-leaders-demand-that-detention-period-for-immigrants-is-limited-to-maximum-of-28-days-10366626.html>



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**The Real Stories of Migrant Britain: Clive fled from Zimbabwe - now it won't have him back**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-real-stories-of-migrant-britain-clive-fled-from-zimbabwe--now-it-wont-have-him-back-10362362.html>

**The Real Stories of Migrant Britain: An Algerian scientist adjusts to life working in a kebab shop**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-real-stories-of-migrant-britain-an-algerian-scientist-adjusts-to-life-working-in-a-kebab-shop-10359294.html>

**Migrants more are more likely to have job in UK than native workers: Foreigners also more likely to open their own business, report says**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3148091/Migrants-likely-job-UK-native-workers-Foreigners-likely-open-business-report-says.html>

**One in five migrants granted citizenship in Europe choose to live in the UK: More than 200,000 successfully applied in one year alone – second only to Spain**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3146799/One-five-migrants-granted-citizenship-Europe-choose-live-UK-200-000-successfully-applied-one-year-second-Spain.html>

**Home Office admit they have lost 39 athletes and supporters who came to the UK for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and another 21 have claimed asylum here**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3149931/Home-Office-admits-LOST-39-athletes-supporters-came-UK-Glasgow-Commonwealth-Games.html>

**Home Office 'loses' 39 athletes after Glasgow 2014**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/home-office-loses-39-athletes-after-glasgow-2014-1-3822337>

**Sturgeon demands answers from Cameron over fate of Scottish asylum seeker feared dead after deportation to Pakistan**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sturgeon-demands-answers-from-cameron-over-fate-of-scottish-refugee-feared-dead-after.131031935>

**Rise in arrests of illegal immigrants by Dover police**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33404770>

**Dealing with asylum claims by unaccompanied minors**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/reports/article4488524.ece>

**The areas of England and Wales where people don't speak English**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11728549/Revealed-The-areas-of-England-and-Wales-where-people-dont-speak-English.html>

**Immigration reviving Christianity in Britain – Cardinal**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11724826/Immigration-reviving-Christianity-in-Britain-Cardinal.html>

**First cousin marriages in Pakistani communities leading to 'appalling' disabilities among children**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/children/11723308/First-cousin-marriages-in-Pakistani-communities-leading-to-appalling-disabilities-among-children.html>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Home Office make decision on UK citizenship for woman who has lived in Scotland for nearly 30 years**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/home-office-make-decision-on-uk-citizenship-for-woman-who-has-lived-in-scotland-for-n.131532234>

**Foreign students will be banned from working and forced to leave the UK when their course ends**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3158012/Foreign-students-banned-working-forced-leave-UK-course-ends.html>

**Kick out foreign students at end of course says Javid: Business Secretary wants to stop 'link' between studying in UK and winning the right to live here**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3156956/Kick-foreign-students-end-course-says-Business-Secretary.html>

**Living wage will encourage a new influx of migrants**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4493269.ece>

**Osborne's £9 per hour National Living Wage 'will attract more migrants'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11729578/George-Osbornes-9-per-hour-National-Living-Wage-will-attract-more-migrants-to-Britain.html>

**Protest over £18,600 minimum income rule to bring foreign spouses to UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jul/09/couples-protest-18600-minimum-income-rule-foreign-spouse-uk>

**'In the spirit of the Kindertransport we want to extend a warm welcome to Syria's refugees'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/jul/08/in-the-spirit-of-the-kindertransport-we-want-to-extend-a-warm-welcome-to-syrias-refugees>

**Britain sends a barrier to keep out Calais migrants**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4482446.ece>

**I don't see Calais migrants as a threat – perhaps I have my mother to thank**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/02/calais-migrants-uk>

**Calais crisis: welcome to "The New Jungle" where migrants wait to cross to Britain**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11718598/Calais-crisis-Bicycle-repair-shops-mosques-and-an-Orthodox-church-the-town-where-migrants-wait-to-cross-to-Britain.html>

**Would Calais migrants really be better off in the UK?**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33268521>

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# Community Relations

## UK Parliament Debate

### **Ethnic Minorities**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150706-0002.htm#15070616000123>

## UK Parliament Question

### **Community Relations**

**Lyn Brown** [4728] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what resources are available to his Department to undertake work promoting community cohesion.

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** My Department provides targeted support to a range of projects aimed at bringing communities together, including an £8 million English language programme to help isolated adults learn English; £8 million to the Near Neighbours campaign to bring diverse faith communities together to help improve their neighbourhoods; and £5 million to educate teenagers about the sacrifices made during the First World War. Alongside the resources applied to such projects, we work with colleagues across government and with external partners to deliver the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside each other.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-30/4728/>

## Press Release

**Supporting efforts to monitor the implementation of national Roma integration strategies**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/supporting-efforts-monitor-implementation-national-roma-integration-strategies>

## News

**Warm crowd embrace is evidence of the nation's giant strides**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/tennis/article4485175.ece>

**Schools in wider racial split than St Louis**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/article1577173.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1577173.ece)

**61% of ethnic minority kids in England - and 90% in London - begin Year 1 in schools where ethnic minorities are the majority of the student body**

[http://www.demos.co.uk/press\\_releases/integration-hub-education](http://www.demos.co.uk/press_releases/integration-hub-education)

**UK schools 'racially divided', research shows**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11720140/UK-schools-racially-divided-research-shows.html>

**'I welcomed Cameron into my home, but his talk on British Muslims saddens me'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jul/03/david-cameron-british-muslims-extremism-alienation>

## Community Relations

### News (continued)

**More Britons believe that multiculturalism makes the country worse - not better, says poll**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/more-britons-believe-that-multiculturalism-makes-the-country-worse--not-better-says-poll-10366003.html>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Teachers

**Iain Gray:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to encourage more black and minority ethnic people to become teachers. (S4W-26114)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which broadly reflects Scottish society. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26114&ResultsPerPage=10>

#### Teachers

**Iain Gray:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the number of black and minority ethnic teachers in schools. (S4W-26115)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which broadly reflects Scottish society. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26115&ResultsPerPage=10>

#### Teachers

**Iain Gray:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address the challenges faced by black and minority ethnic teachers seeking progression into senior roles. (S4W-26116)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government is committed to equality. We want to see a diverse education workforce which includes more black and minority ethnic teachers in senior roles. The establishment of the Scottish College for Educational Leadership alongside a new qualification for headship will help create a clear promotion pathway guiding all teachers to the most senior posts in schools. I am committed to establishing a new strategic board for teacher education and quality which will include universities, local

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

authorities and professional associations. These partners have an essential role to play in addressing the diversity of the teaching workforce. I will task this board to investigate the barriers to wider representation and to come forward with suggestions to support diversity in order to ensure that the teaching workforce within schools reflects the communities that they serve.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26116&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

### Inquiry into Race, Ethnicity and Employment

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10046&i=92181&c=1844125#ScotParLOR>

## UK Parliament Questions

### Educational Inequalities (BAME Communities)

**Imran Hussain:** What steps the Government are taking to address educational inequalities experienced by BAME communities. [900719]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for Education (Nicky Morgan):** We are determined to ensure that every child, regardless of background, is given an education that allows them to fulfil their potential, and that includes an understanding of fundamental British values. We have invested more than £6 billion in the pupil premium to date. Disadvantaged pupil attainment has risen, including among poor pupils from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Schools such as Whitefield infant school and nursery, which was recently rated as outstanding and which I visited with my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Andrew Stephenson), have been part of that transformation.

**Imran Hussain:** ... Education in Bradford is at the bottom of the league tables, but it is much worse for those from the BAME community or working-class backgrounds who have to overcome further hurdles. Does she believe that, in order to make a positive difference and address the problem of educational inequality, there needs to be a change in policy? Will she work to make Bradford a pilot for reinstating the highly successful city challenge, so that we can reduce educational inequality in the city?

**Reply from Nicky Morgan:** ... I take his point about the attainment of those from black and minority ethnic communities. It is possible, as we have seen in other schools, for them to achieve very highly. We have spent £36 million in pupil premium funding in the past year in Bradford. I am very happy to hear more from him about how he would like to take this forward.

**Sharon Hodgson:** Does the Secretary of State agree that to help address educational inequalities, more academics from BAME backgrounds should be present in our higher education system? Only 85 of the 18,500 professors in UK academia are black, and within that number only 17 are women. The statistics are equally damning in senior management roles, with only 15 black academics. What are the Government doing to boost BAME representation in our universities?

**Reply from Nicky Morgan:** The hon. Lady is absolutely right: there is a lack of diversity, and not just in higher education institutions; unfortunately, we see that in other parts of our society, too. Higher education is not within the Department for Education's remit, but I would be very happy to talk to the Minister responsible for higher education. The hon. Lady is also absolutely right to identify the importance



## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

of role models. I am sure she will join me in recognising that in the recent Queen's birthday honours list more than 51% of the recipients of honours were women.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150702/debtext/150702-0001.htm#15070233000030>

#### Headteachers: Ethnic Groups

**Greg Mulholland** [4449] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of (a) head teachers and (b) deputy head teachers are Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** This information is publicly available in Table 5 of the School Workforce in England Statistical First Release, November 2014 at the following weblink:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/school-workforce-in-england-november-2014>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-26/4449/>

#### Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

**Stephen Timms** [4243] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what target he has for the number of apprenticeship places to be taken by black and ethnic minority applicants; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Nick Boles:** The government believes that apprenticeships provide an excellent opportunity for people from all backgrounds. We are committed to 3 million apprenticeship starts during this parliament which will open many more opportunities for apprenticeships for people from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-25/4243/>

#### Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

**Stephen Timms** [4244] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what proportion of apprenticeship applications is made by black and ethnic minority applicants.

**Reply from Nick Boles:** Information on apprenticeship applications made via the Apprenticeship vacancy online system by ethnicity of the applicant is published online: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/432299/ApprenticeshipVacancyReportNumberofapplicationsbyAgeGenderEthnicityorSSAorProgrammeLevelJun15.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/432299/ApprenticeshipVacancyReportNumberofapplicationsbyAgeGenderEthnicityorSSAorProgrammeLevelJun15.xls)

While not all applications for apprenticeships are submitted via the Apprenticeship vacancy online system, data is only available for applications submitted in this way.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-25/4244/>

#### Police: Ethnic Groups

**Greg Mulholland** [4895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of police officers in England and Wales at the rank of superintendent or above are black, Asian or minority ethnic.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** As at 31 March 2014, 49 police officers in the 43 police forces in England and Wales at the rank of superintendent or above were black, Asian or minority ethnic. This represents 3.7% of all officers at these ranks. The Government's reforms, including innovative schemes such as Direct Entry

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and Police Now, are making the police workforce more diverse than ever before, and showing that it is possible to achieve better representation while attracting the best and the brightest into policing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-30/4895/>

#### **Prisoners: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Ouseley** [HL923] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the consequences of increasing disproportionality of black and minority ethnic young people in HM Prisons for future social cohesion.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** The government is committed to making sure the criminal justice system is fair and just and recognises that continued work is needed to understand the experience of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) young people in the criminal justice system.

The Youth Justice Board is working with a wide range of organisations, including youth offending teams, to address the over-representation of BAME young people in the justice system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-29/HL923/>

## News

#### **Police need to recruit 17,000 more black officers to reflect society**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11707007/Police-need-to-recruit-17000-more-black-officers-to-reflect-society.html>

#### **UK gains its first-ever female black university leader**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-gains-its-first-ever-female-black-university-leader-10352821.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Press Releases

#### **FRA speaks in European parliamentary debate on antisemitism, Islamophobia and hate speech**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/fra-speaks-european-parliamentary-debate-antisemitism-islamophobia-and-hate-speech>

#### **Dramatic increase in antisemitism, Islamophobia, online hate speech: annual report from Council of Europe's anti-racism commission**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/197-09\\_07\\_2015\\_AnnualReport2014\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/197-09_07_2015_AnnualReport2014_en.asp)

## **Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination** (continued) **New Publications**

**Muslims, Islamophobia and British society ten years after 7/7**

<http://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/Anti-Muslim%20Hate%20Ten%20Years%20After%207-7.pdf>

**Annual Report on ECRI's Activities covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014**

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual\\_Reports/Annual%20report%202014.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20report%202014.pdf)

## **News**

**Anti-Muslim Hate Ten Years After 7/7**

<http://tellmamauk.org/anti-muslim-hate-ten-years-after-77-7-infographics-on-77/>

**Response to “Tell Mama” from the Prime Minister’s Office on anti-Muslim Hate**

<http://tellmamauk.org/response-from-the-prime-ministers-office-on-anti-muslim-hate/>

**Neo-nazis outnumbered by counter-demonstrators at central London protest**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/neo-nazis-outnumbered-by-counter-demonstrators-at-central-london-protest.1436015687>

**London neo-Nazi rally moved after outcry from Jewish leaders and MPs**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/30/london-neo-nazi-rally-moved-from-golders-green>

**Neo-Nazi protest in central London**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3149172/Neo-Nazi-protest-central-London.html>

**I'm taking my Jewish kids to a vile neo-Nazi rally in London this weekend – because I want them to learn about free speech**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/im-taking-my-jewish-kids-to-a-vile-neonazi-rally-because-i-want-them-to-learn-about-free-speech-10355630.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Financial adviser who called MP Josh Frydenberg a 'tinkering Jew' loses his professional licence over his anti-Semitic Twitter tirade**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3143826/Financial-adviser-called-MP-Josh-Frydenberg-tinkering-Jew-loses-professional-licence-anti-Semitic-Twitter-tirade.html>

**Google apologises for Photos app's racist blunder**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-33347866>

**Google says sorry for racist auto-tag in photo app**

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/jul/01/google-sorry-racist-auto-tag-photo-app>

**'Your are responsible for Tunisia' – Take Away Owner in Scotland Targeted**

<http://tellmamauk.org/your-are-responsible-for-tunisia-take-away-owner-in-scotland-targeted/>

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## Scottish Devolution

### UK Parliament Question

#### **Sovereignty: Scotland**

**Lord Empey** [HL494] To ask Her Majesty's Government under what circumstances they will consent to a second referendum on Scottish independence.

**Reply from Lord Dunlop:** The people of Scotland voted decisively on 18 September 2014 in favour of remaining part of the United Kingdom. In September 2013, the now First Minister described the independence referendum as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity for Scotland'. The issue of a further referendum therefore does not arise.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL494/>

### Press Release

**'You cannot be serious', Mundell tells Scotland Bill critics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/you-cannot-be-serious-mundell-tells-scotland-bill-critics>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**'Right to Review': Strengthened rights for victims of crime in Scotland**

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/latest-news-from-copfs/1090-right-to-review-strengthened-rights-for-victims-of-crime-in-scotland>

**New NHS Organ Donor Register launched**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-NHS-Organ-Donor-Register-launched-1b17.aspx>

**Remembering Srebrenica**

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/remembering-srebrenica/>

**English votes for English laws**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/English-votes-for-English-laws-1b1f.aspx>

### News

**Scots can opt out of organ donation**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4493581.ece>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Application for Emergency Debate

#### English Votes on English Laws

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0002.htm#1507066000002>

### Debate

#### English Votes on English Laws

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150707/debtext/150707-0001.htm#15070743000003>

### Ministerial Statement and Q&A

#### English Votes on English Laws

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150702/debtext/150702-0002.htm#15070233000003>

### Parliamentary Questions

#### **SG First Minister: Diplomatic Relations**

**Peter Grant** [4656] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether any (a) Minister and (b) Scotland Office Special Advisers were sent responses to Freedom of Information requests concerning the memo written by a Scotland Office civil servant on 6 March 2015 containing an account of the meeting between the Scottish First Minister and the French Ambassador before they were sent to the inquirers.

**Reply from David Mundell:** Information relating to internal discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4656/>

#### **SG First Minister: Diplomatic Relations**

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Peter Grant** [4657] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, when he first became aware of the memorandum written by a Scotland Office civil servant on 6 March 2015, containing an account of the meeting between the Scottish First Minister and the French Ambassador.

**Peter Grant** [4655] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether any special advisers in the Scotland Office were sent a copy of the memo written by a Scotland Office civil servant on 6 March 2015 containing an account of the meeting between the Scottish First Minister and the French Ambassador.

**Peter Grant** [4654] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether he was sent a copy of the memo written by a Scotland Office civil servant on 6 March 2015 containing an account of the meeting between the Scottish First Minister and the French Ambassador.

**Peter Grant** [4658] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, when he first became aware that the memo written by a Scotland Office civil servant on 6 March 2015, containing an account of the meeting between the Scottish First Minister and French Ambassador, had been leaked.

**Reply from David Mundell:** Following the leak of a Scotland Office memorandum



## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

that formed the basis of a story in the Daily Telegraph on 3 April, which was when I first became aware of the leak, the Cabinet Secretary instigated a Cabinet Office-led inquiry to establish how the memo to which the honourable Member refers came to be written and how it got into the public domain. The findings of the inquiry were published on the 22 May 2015 and are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-office-memorandum-leak-cabinet-office-inquiry-statement>. These findings specifically refer to the role of the then Special Advisor and the former Secretary of State for Scotland. These findings also make clear that no one else had any involvement in the leaking of the memo.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4657/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4655/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4654/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-29/4658/>

### Prisoners: Travellers

**Philip Davies** [3765] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of prisoners identify as being from a Gypsy, Traveller or Roma background.

**Reply from Andrew Selous:** As at 31 March 2015, 1.1% of the total prison population that have ethnicity declarations recorded on central systems identified themselves as having Irish Traveller or Gypsy background. Over 98% of all prisoners have such declarations recorded.

A survey by HM Inspectorate of Prisons, published in 2014, suggested that some 5% of prisoners identified themselves with a broader category of Gypsy, Romany or Traveller.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3765/>

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Stephen Phillips:** What steps she is taking to prevent girls being taken overseas to undergo female genital mutilation. [900721]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley):** Female genital mutilation is a barbaric act, for which there can be no excuse. It is child abuse. Girls may be particularly at risk during the summer holidays. We are introducing FGM protection orders on 17 July this year. An order could, for example, require a passport to be surrendered to prevent a girl from being taken abroad for FGM. Border Force and the police will also carry out joint operations over the summer, targeting outbound and inbound flights.

**Stephen Phillips:** We are coming to that time of year when girls are trafficked abroad for this barbaric practice to be undertaken. Does the Minister agree that it is critically important in this area to ensure that health care and safeguarding professionals have full and proper support to tackle FGM? What is she doing to ensure that that is the case this year?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** My hon. and learned Friend makes a very good point. The Government recognise the importance of equipping those on the front

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

line with the tools they need to tackle FGM—and that means across the board. The Department of Health has funded a £3 million FGM prevention programme to support NHS staff and the Department for Education has provided £2 million to support a national programme, backed by Barnardo's and the Local Government Association, that will create a highly specialised team of skilled social workers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150702/debtext/150702-0001.htm#15070233000032>

### Forced Marriage

**Bob Blackman:** What steps the CPS is taking to ensure its prosecutors will be able successfully to prosecute the criminal offence of forced marriage. [900695]

**Graham Evans:** What steps the CPS is taking to ensure its prosecutors will be able successfully to prosecute the criminal offence of forced marriage. [900696]

**James Berry:** What steps the CPS is taking to ensure its prosecutors will be able successfully to prosecute the criminal offence of forced marriage. [900709]

**Reply from the Solicitor General (Robert Buckland):** The first successful prosecution using the new offence of forced marriage was recorded earlier this year. Previously, the Crown Prosecution Service had to use offences such as assault and kidnap to address this serious issue. The CPS has provided legal guidance and learning support to its prosecutors on cases of forced marriage to raise their awareness of the issues involved, which includes the important work of joint workshops with the police in every CPS area to tackle this menace.

**Bob Blackman:** ... Clearly, we want to rid society of this scourge. Will he update the House on how many prosecutions have been brought to court and how many are in the pipeline?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** From 2010, particular offences that involve forced marriage as a key element have been flagged by the CPS. I am happy to report that the volume of completed prosecutions in the last year, 2014-15, rose to 46, the highest ever. There is more work to be done, but the progress is encouraging.

**Graham Evans:** Forced marriage is a scourge across many communities in the UK and I welcome the work undertaken by the Government on the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Will my hon. and learned Friend update the House on the work being carried out to bring this scourge to an end? What advice has been provided to young men and women who might be at risk of forced marriage?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office forced marriage unit, which has been in operation for about 10 years, provides free and confidential advice on the dangers of being forced into marriage and the precautions that can be taken. It operates both here and overseas and last year gave advice and support in nearly 1,300 cases. I commend its work to the House.

**James Berry:** ... What is the CPS in London, where my constituency sits, doing to embed best practice for the prosecution of forced marriage?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** ... 14 London prosecutors attended last year's joint training course, held with the Metropolitan police on forced marriage, honour-based violence and female genital mutilation. There is a specialist team of about 25 lawyers in London dealing with all Crown court cases that include elements of forced marriage and there are similar arrangements in magistrates courts.

**Keith Vaz:** Of the 1,271 cases, 11% involve victims who are under the age of 16. In the last Parliament, the Select Committee on Home Affairs specifically asked the Education Secretary to write to every headteacher to make them aware of this problem, especially before the summer holidays. Has this been done? If not, can it be done?

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** I do not have the information on whether that letter has been written, but I very much appreciate the importance of cross-governmental working to deal with this issue and, indeed, many others that, as the right hon. Gentleman knows, are cultural and need to be tackled head on rather than ignored.

**Helen Jones:** Given that the forced marriage unit, which the Solicitor General rightly commended, is offering advice on some 1,300 cases, we are clearly only touching the tip of the iceberg with the number of cases that come to court. Is he certain that Crown prosecutors have the resources they need to deal with these complex cases and adequate training to understand the cultural and family backgrounds that might lead to victims wanting to withdraw the case?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The hon. Lady makes a proper point. I can reassure her that the degree of training and, importantly, the joint training that goes on with the police is very much understood by the Crown Prosecution Service. It applies not just to forced marriage, but to a range of offences in which cultural barriers and other issues can make it difficult for victims to come forward. It is well understood and I am glad to see that numbers continue to increase, but of course more work needs to be done.

**Jim Shannon:** Since the Modern Slavery Act came into force, there has been some limited success, but more has to be done to protect victims. What has been done to train staff in the public agencies to spot forced marriages?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** I have dealt with training within the CPS and the police, but the hon. Gentleman makes a proper point about third-party agencies. In the case of young people it is an issue of safeguarding. Forced marriage is a form of child abuse and must be recognised as such. All agencies should be alert to this manifestation and make reports promptly and comprehensively.

**Nick Thomas-Symonds:** Does the Solicitor General agree that the number of successful prosecutions on forced marriages, as with other offences, depends on there being a sufficient number of prosecutors with the time to make individual judgments on cases and to prepare properly for trial? Does the hon. and learned Gentleman agree that cutting the number of prosecutors in this Parliament and cutting funding for the Crown Prosecution Service is likely to be counterproductive?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** ... The work that has been done by the Crown Prosecution Service in the past five years in removing excessive expenditure in the back office and concentrating on the front line has yielded results. I am absolutely confident that issues of resource will never get in the way of the proper investigation and prosecution of such allegations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150702/debtext/150702-0001.htm#15070233000017>

## New Publication

**Letter from Jane Ellison, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health – Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/443992/PS\\_PH\\_FGM\\_letter\\_acc.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443992/PS_PH_FGM_letter_acc.pdf)

## Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) News

**Government policy will seal the mouths of Muslim pupils**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/01/muslim-children-enemy-radicalisation>

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## New Publications

**7th July London Bombings: A Decade of Reflection**

<http://faith-matters.org/images/pdf/A%20Decade%20of%20Reflections%20Final.pdf>

**Female Genital Mutilation and its Management**

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/gtg-53-fgm.pdf>

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## Other News

**Muslim groups unite against terrorism**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13366460.Muslim\\_groups\\_unite\\_against\\_terrorism/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13366460.Muslim_groups_unite_against_terrorism/)

**Armed Forces Muslim Forum supports #WalkTogether at Iftar event**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-muslim-forum-supports-walktogether-at-iftar-event>

**Sharia marriage: beyond the law's reach**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4491725.ece>

**Rise in Sharia marriages prompts polygamy fears**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11715090/Rise-in-Sharia-marriages-prompts-polygamy-fears.html>

**UK Sharia marriage is not toxic - polygamous men are**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11715461/Muslim-Sharia-marriage-in-the-UK-is-not-toxic-polygamous-men-are.html>

**Media scares about 'sharia marriages' miss the point**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/06/sharia-marriages-muslims-religious-civil-marriage-ceremonies>

**Young Muslims fuel huge rise in Sharia marriage**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4486748.ece>

**You are free: one day in a mosque divorce court**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4486716.ece>

**Young British Muslims are fuelling a rise in Sharia weddings and secret polygamous marriages, claims Islamic family lawyer**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3147991/Young-British-Muslims-fuelling-rise-Sharia-weddings-secret-polygamous-marriages-claims-Islamic-family-lawyer.html>

## Other News (continued)

**'Honour crime': 11,000 UK cases recorded in five years**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33424644>

**Female genital mutilation: there's an app for that? Really?**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11723440/Female-genital-mutilation-theres-an-app-for-that-Really.html>

**Council of Europe Raoul Wallenberg Prize 2016**

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-raoul-wallenberg-prize-2016>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

**Community Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/88702.aspx>

**Criminal Justice Bill**

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

**Education Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/87330.aspx>

**Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**

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

**Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/89893.aspx>

### Bills in Progress

#### UK Parliament

**\*\* Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/childvictimsofhumantraffickingcentralgovernmentresponsibility.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150629/debtext/150629-0002.htm#15062912000003>

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

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0002.htm#15070626000002>



## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### **\*\* Scotland Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150629/debtext/150629-0003.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150630/debtext/150630-0001.htm#15063034000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0002.htm#15070626000001>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0003/amend/pbc033006a.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0003/amend/pbc030607m.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0003/amend/pbc030607a.1-4.html>

#### **\*\* UK Borders Control Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/ukborderscontrol.html>

First Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150706/debtext/150706-0002.htm#15070626000002>

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## Consultations

**\*\* new or updated this week**

#### **\*\* closes next week!**

**Proposals for a Lobbying Transparency Bill** (closing date 24 July 2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00477580.pdf>

**Community Justice Bill** (closing date 12 August 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/89658.aspx>

**EU Blue Card: recruitment of highly qualified third-country nationals** (closing date 21 August 2015)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting\\_0029\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting_0029_en.htm)

**The devolution of public finances in the United Kingdom** (closing date 21 August 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/devolution-public-finances/Public-Finances-in-a-Devolved-United-Kingdom-Call-for-Evidence-for-publication.pdf>

**\*\* EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling** (closing date 21 August 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/news-parliament-2015/migrant-smuggling-launch/>

## Consultations (continued)

**\*\* Work of the UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee** (closing date 31 August 2015)  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/work-of-scottish-affairs-committee-2015-2020/>

**Further extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to more organisations** (closing date 4 September 2015)  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00479060.pdf>

**Higher Education Governance Bill** (closing date 4 September 2015)  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/90819.aspx>

**\*\* Prescription and Title to Moveable Property (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 23 September 2015)  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00480843.pdf>

**\*\* Review of Tier 2 [of the points-based immigration system]** (closing date 25 September 2015)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/441429/Call\\_for\\_Evidence\\_Review\\_of\\_Tier\\_2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441429/Call_for_Evidence_Review_of_Tier_2.pdf)

**\*\* Risk and Resilience in the Charity Sector: A Survey of Scottish Charities** (no closing date given)  
<https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/understanding-and-perception-of-risk-in-the-charity-sector>

**\*\* Experiences and opinions about having been a volunteer** (no closing date given)  
<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/738838/newtest/Y/lang/en>

**\*\* Experience and practice about working with young volunteers** (no closing date given)  
<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/454824/newtest/Y/lang/en>

**Creating A Fairer Scotland: What Matters To You?** (no closing date given)  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00479666.pdf>

**Understanding and Perception of Risk in the Charity Sector** (no closing date given)  
<https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/understanding-and-perception-of-risk-in-the-charity-sector>

**Discrimination in Football Survey** (no closing date given)  
[http://efemico.eu/main\\_files/FARacismSurvey/FARacismSurvey.html](http://efemico.eu/main_files/FARacismSurvey/FARacismSurvey.html)

**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

### **Multicultural Scotland: Year of Food and Drink Scotland 2015, and Scotland's Winter Festivals – small grants programme**

BEMIS Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Government have been tasked with developing a series of events between June and January 2016 which will celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Scotland utilising the key cultural characteristics of diverse communities. The small grants programme will enable community groups to develop and host localised Multicultural Celebrations under the 'Year of Food and Drink 2015 and Winter Festivals' banner and showcase this important dynamic of Scotland's identity and evolving heritage. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/project/year-of-food-and-drink/>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* Empowerment of the Black and Ethnic Minorities through Education**

22 July 2015 in Glasgow (3.00 – 7.00)

African Challenge Scotland event with speakers including John Mason MSP. For information contact Ronier Deumeni 07958 062 528 / [afranchallengescotland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:afranchallengescotland@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Festival of Politics**

14-16 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

To read the full programme see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/whats-on/>

### **Scotland and Slavery**

14 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (4.30 – 6.00)

Festival of Politics event to consider the role of Scots in the slave trade and the legacy of that today. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/scotland-and-slavery/>

### **Muslim Women – Freedom, Femininity and Faith**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.00)

Festival of Politics panel discussion to consider freedom, femininity and faith for Muslim women. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/muslim-women-freedom-femininity-and-faith/>

### **Building a Peaceful Future after Genocide**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss ways of building peace, unity and reconciliation in a region when genocide has taken place. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/building-a-peaceful-future-after-genocide/>

### **Freedom of Speech**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event in the aftermath of the attacks on the French magazine Charlie Hebdo this year which themselves triggered worldwide verbal, written and physical

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

attacks, defenders of freedom of speech were challenged to redefine and reconsider whether that position does have its limits. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/freedom-of-speech/>

### **\*\* Parent Council Training: Equalities and Engagement**

15 September 2015 in Edinburgh (12.30 – 2.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshop to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/event/parent-council-training-equalities-and-engagement-2/> or contact Marion [marion.fairweather@bemis.org.uk](mailto:marion.fairweather@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047

### **Migration**

16 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event to reflect on how we engage with migration, and respond to people who are looking to live, work, study and seek refuge in Scotland. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/migration/>

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Primary School Information**

30 September 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

1 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Secondary School Information**

7 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

8 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Parental Involvement and Engagement**

21 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

22 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Post 16 Education and Choices**

28 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

29 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Mother tongue – at home and school**

4 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

5 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Children's Rights in Scotland**

11 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

12 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact [gtevents@bemis.org.uk](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

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## Useful Links

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

**Scottish Government** <http://www.gov.scot/>

**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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

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

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



## Useful Links (continued)

**BBC Democracy Live** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](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/>



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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