

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 UK Parliament is in recess until 9 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

S5W-11111 Fulton MacGregor (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the guidance that it has produced for local authorities regarding support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Mark McDonald: Unaccompanied children are looked after children and therefore are eligible for accommodation and safeguarding up to the age of 18; and, post 18 they are then eligible for services as care leavers under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Part 10 (After Care) and part 11 (Continuing Care) of that Act describe what is available for all looked after children as care leavers. An individual can stay in their care placement up until the age of 21 and when they eventually leave their care placement, they will receive advice and support as necessary up to the age of 26.

Uniquely, unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Scotland are also supported by the award winning Scottish Guardianship Service which provides support to the child and the local authority as that child navigates the asylum process. The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, put the independent child trafficking guardian on a statutory footing. A child is eligible for a Guardian when there is reason to believe that they either have been or are vulnerable to trafficking, and where no one has parental rights and responsibilities for that child. As part of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, a Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy was produced and launched on the 2 June 2017. Section 4 of that strategy deals explicitly with children and a Scottish Government run Child Trafficking Strategy Group is operating to deliver the requirements of that Section.

Finally, COSLA run an Unaccompanied Child working group which all local authorities are invited to join and which the Scottish Government attends. This meets on a quarterly basis and is used as a forum to share emerging issues and to learn from best practice.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11111&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-07671 Christina McKelvie (SNP): UK Government's Post-Brexit Immigration Policy – That the Parliament notes the leaked Home Office document, *Border, Immigration and Citizenship System After the UK Leaves the European Union*; condemns what it sees as the xenophobic and narrow-minded tone of this paper, which, it believes, sets out the Conservative administration's immigration policy approach, post-Brexit; understands that it proposes subjecting EU nationals to provide biometric identification and places an explicit, discriminatory preference to British citizens in the labour market; believes that implementing what it sees as a right-wing "British jobs for British workers" policy, which would restrict employment opportunities for EU nationals, would be inherently xenophobic; condemns what it understands are the plans for a registry of EU nationals to be established; believes that this would lead to a divisive and deeply worrying targeting of EU nationals, and reiterates members' call for an urgent rethink from the UK Government and for UK ministers to re-assure EU nationals that they will not be scapegoated, targeted or discriminated against post-Brexit.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-07671>

The document referred to above can be read at

<https://www.scribd.com/document/358064862/THE-BORDER-IMMIGRATION-AND-CITIZENSHIP-SYSTEM-AFTER-THE-UK-LEAVES-THE-EUROPEAN-UNION>

S5M-07616 Emma Harper (SNP): Valuing the Contribution of EU Workers in the Agricultural Sector – That the Parliament recognises what it considers the invaluable contribution of workers from the EU who decide to live and work in Scotland, particularly within the dairy and agricultural sector; understands that these areas of work are skilled and require a high level of commitment; notes that, in a wider context, EU workers are extremely welcome in what it believes is Scotland's tolerant, diverse and welcoming society, and calls on the UK Government to ensure that the rights of EU workers in Scotland are protected.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-07616>

S5M-07628 Neil Findlay (Labour): Human Trafficking in West Lothian – That the Parliament is concerned that West Lothian has been highlighted as one of 27 local

authorities in Scotland where human trafficking victims have been found; understands that evidence collected by Police Scotland and TARA (Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance) has shown that Bathgate and Livingston are known to be key trafficking areas; considers that this dismal reality of human exploitation occurs across Scotland, and urges Police Scotland, the Scottish Government, local authorities and other agencies to work together in order to eliminate trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-07628&>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking and Refugee Children

Heidi Allan (Conservative): When [the Minister] plans to publish the Government's strategy on the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. [900749]

Tulip Siddiq (Labour): When [the Minister] plans to publish the Government's strategy on the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. [900761]

Reply from the Minister of State, Department for Education (Robert Goodwill): The safeguarding strategy, bringing together all work in this area and setting out further detail, will be published later this autumn.

Heidi Allan: This strategy was due on 1 May, so I am keen that we see it as soon as possible. I would like to understand the reasons for the delay and to know whether the Minister has looked at whether independent guardians might work. I was struck when I visited Lesbos and Calais that there is no admin support or signposting at all for unaccompanied children seeking to make asylum claims, so having somebody with them would definitely help.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We had a general election this year, which derailed some of the timetables for these things, but it is certainly absolutely vital that all unaccompanied children seeking asylum have access to independent legal advice and are referred to the Children's Panel.

Tulip Siddiq: Statistics from the organisation Every Child Protected Against Trafficking show that just in 2015 93 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children went missing from care. Charities such as the Refugee Council and the Children's Society have recommended that independent guardians be appointed for such children, to protect them in future. Will the Minister consider this in the safeguarding strategy?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I was the immigration Minister until just recently and worked in this area. We were well aware of the fact that some of the relatives who took children in under the Dublin regulation had not had much contact with the families beforehand and that that might not have worked out very well, but I am certainly happy to look at what the hon. Lady is saying, particularly in the light of her experience with Amnesty and Save the Children.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-09-11/debates/05711FB7-5C8F-4CF2-B7D8-E64C84F629F6/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingAndRefugeeChildren>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers Nationality and Visa applications

British Nationality

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [6871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for British citizenship have been waiting three years or more to have their application granted.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office does not publish this data in the format requested.

The Home Office are currently deciding 100% of straightforward applications for British citizenship within six months. The most recent figures for British citizenship applications can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2017>

Some applications are not straightforward and may take longer than six months to decide. These applications are of a particularly complex nature where further investigation is required, often involving other government departments and external agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6871/>

Immigration: Families

Kate Green (Labour) [6299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average waiting time was for a non-priority family of a settled person visa application decision (a) before VFS Global became an Official Partner of UK Visas and Immigration and (b) after VFS Global became an Official Partner of UK Visas and Immigration.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The current contract with VFS was signed in September 2013 and has driven an improvement in customer service. However, the processing of a visa application is always carried out by UKVI staff and the Commercial Partner has no role in the assessment of applications.

The Home Office publishes information on visa processing times, including those of non-priority family members of a settled person. This information can be found online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2017/list-of-tables#visas>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6299/>

Visas

Neil Coyle (Labour) [8597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are currently awaiting decisions on visas to enter the UK; how many officials work on the decision-making process for those visas; and what the average waiting time for a decision is in such cases.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes information on visa processing times and the number of cases 'in progress' online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

UK Visas and Immigration operate flexible staffing resources and deploy staff in line with demands on the service. Data on staffing within UK Visas & Immigration is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#staffing-data>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8597/>

Visas

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [7416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa applications have been received by UK Visas and Immigration in each of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Information on the number of visa applications, grants, refusals, withdrawals and lapsed cases is published quarterly. The latest data is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables#visas>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7416/>

Visas

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [7791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visa application cases have taken over (a) six, (b) nine, (c) 12 and (d) 18 months to be processed in each of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7791/>

Visas

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [7529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy for UKVI to give applicants a target date for when their visa applications will be processed.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI's published timescale for processing standard visa applications is 12 weeks (60 working days) for straightforward settlement applications, and three weeks (15 working days) for straightforward non-settlement applications.

If an application is complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7529/>

Visas

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6865] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 5241, how many applicants who have paid for her Department's Priority Service have not received a response within the 60 days' time standard in each month for the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6865/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-17/5241/>

Visas

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6806] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for same day premium visa services were granted on the same day in 2016.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI transparency data provides details of how the Premium Service Centres perform against that service standard.

A link to the most recent available data is provided here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6806/>

Visas

Keith Vaz (Labour) [6807] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for same day premium visa service have taken longer than six months to process.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office does not routinely publish the number of premium service applications that take longer than six months to process. The premium service published service standard is to complete 98.5% of straightforward cases on the same day. UKVI transparency data provides details of how the Premium Service Centres perform against that service standard.

A link to the most recent available data is provided here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6807/>

Visas: Appeals

The following four questions all received the same answer

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [9493] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many visa appeals have been decided for those who have no recourse to public funds in each month of the last two years.

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [9494] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many visa appeals took more than six months to be decided in each month of the last two years .

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [9495] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many visa appeals decided for those who have no recourse to public funds took more than six months to be decided in each month of the last two years.

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [9496] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many visa appeals have been decided in each month of the last two years.

Reply from Philip Lee: HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) does not record the information requested.

Information on the number of Immigration and Asylum appeal decisions is published quarterly, broken down into the case categories used by HMCTS to administer appeals:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognitions-certificates-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2017-and-2016-to-2017

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9493/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9494/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9495/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9496/>

Immigration

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [6434] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain did not meet her Department's service standard processing time in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17; and how many such applications took more than a year to process in each period.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Information on processing times for applications for leave to remain is published quarterly in the Home Office's temporary and permanent migration statistics.

A link to the most recent available data is available at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6434/>

Immigration

Anneliese Dodds (Labour (Co-op)) [6174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to make decisions on requests for a change of conditions of leave granted on the basis of family or private life during each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific information requested is not recorded and published. The closest published figures are the transparency data of cases processed within service standards for that period:

The published transparency data for 2016 can be found at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594457/UKVI_TM_PM_Transparency_Data_Q4_2016.od

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6174/>

Visas: Married People

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [7341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department provides for its caseworkers on (a) the timescale for, (b) the use of discretion in assessing and (c) assessment of the minimum income in applications for spouses to join someone with a legal right to live in the UK, including the timescale, the assessment of minimum income and the application of discretion.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The guidance for caseworkers on the minimum income requirement for spouse visas is published on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7341/>

Immigration

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [7342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's definition of a complex case is with regard to immigration cases; and how the decision is taken for a case not to be subject to the timescale of six months for an immigration decision.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has clear internal guidance on the management of asylum claims and the factors that can lead to a case being designated as 'non straight forward'. These cases are proactively managed to ensure barriers are cleared and decisions are made as soon as possible. There are many factors that could lead to a case being designated as 'non straight forward' including medical issues with the claimant, non compliance from the claimant that delays case progression and referrals to specialist casework units.

The decision to designate a case as 'non straight forward' must be discussed and agreed by an officer at least the grade of a Senior Executive Officer and a case cannot be designated simply because the 6 month target cannot be met. Where a case is designated as 'non straight forward the claimant will be informed of the delay to the decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7342/>

Entry Clearances

Neil Coyle (Labour) [6218] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

pursuant to the Answer of 17 July to Question 4282, how many people waiting beyond the normal standard response times currently have no estimate of when their decision will be made.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: When an application is defined as non-straightforward due to complexity, the customer will be written to and in this correspondence it is explained that their case will not be decided within the normal standard timeframes but that a decision will be made as soon as possible, and that the customer will be notified if there is any change. Cases deemed non-straightforward are subject to regular review.

Published data on UKVI's performance against service standards for applications made in the UK and from overseas, including the proportion of cases classified as non-straightforward, is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6218/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-11/4282/>

Entry Clearances

The following four questions all received the same answer

Rachael Maskell (Labour (Co-op)) [7114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for settlement visas were received in each year since 2005; and what average time was taken to process such applications.

Rachael Maskell (Labour (Co-op)) [7116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what percentage of settlement visas were processed within 12 weeks in each year since 2005.

Visas

Rachael Maskell (Labour (Co-op)) [7115] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for settlement visas were received using the priority service in each year since 2005; and what average time was taken to process such applications.

Rachael Maskell (Labour (Co-op)) [7117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of settlement visas using the priority service were processed within 12 weeks (a) in each year since 2005 and (b) for each quarter of the last two years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes visa application data, including the number of settlement applications made, online at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017> (under 'list of tables - 2. Visas').

Data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is also published online at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration')

UKVI's published timescale for processing standard visa applications is 12 weeks (60 working days) for settlement applications, and three weeks (15 working days) for non-settlement applications. Applications made under the priority visa service will be placed to the front of the processing queue and expedited, however timescales for decision are not guaranteed. If there is a problem with an application or it is complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7114/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7116/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7115/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7117/>

Visas: Temporary Employment

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [6567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to implement the recommendation in the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's report, Building the Post-Brexit Immigration System, published in June 2017, on introducing seasonal temporary work visas.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: No final decisions have been taken on the UK's post-Brexit Immigration system. We are considering the options for our future immigration system very carefully. It is important that we understand the impacts on the different sectors of the economy and the labour market. We will, therefore, ensure that businesses and communities have the opportunity to contribute their views. We will build a comprehensive picture of the needs and interests of all parts of the UK and look to develop a system which works for all.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6567/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.rec.uk.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/376160/Buiding-the-Post-Brexit-Immigration-System-09.06.17.pdf

Visas: Skilled Workers

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [6795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of introducing a visa for jobseekers in higher-skilled roles where employers have demonstrated a difficulty in finding suitable candidates.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Since 2010, we have focused on admitting workers who already have a skilled job offer from a sponsoring employer under our Tier 2 visa system, rather than admitting people to look for work. Previous visa routes for jobseekers resulted in many filling low-skilled jobs or remaining unemployed, and were also heavily abused. There were 56,051 Tier 2 skilled work visa applications in the year ending March 2017, similar to the level in the previous year. This suggests employers are not experiencing difficulties recruiting candidates directly from overseas for highly skilled roles. Tier 2 ensures that workers are only admitted where employers have demonstrated that a role cannot be filled from the resident labour market. This requirement is waived for recognised shortage occupations, such as doctors in emergency medicine, engineers in the oil and gas industry, and cyber security specialists.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6795/>

Entry Clearances: Married People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Luke Pollard (Labour) [6259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the implications of the judgment of the Supreme Court of 22 February 2017 in MM (Lebanon) and others v SSHD [2017] UKSC10 for immigration applications.

Immigration

Luke Pollard (Labour) [6255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration applications have been paused while her Department assesses the implications of the judgment of the Supreme Court on 22 February 2017, in *MM (Lebanon) and others v SSHD* [2017] UKSC10; and what is the (a) longest and (b) average length of time for which those immigration applications have been paused.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The changes in Immigration Rules referred to in the Written Ministerial Statement HCWS95 give effect to the findings of the Supreme Court judgment in *MM (Lebanon) & Others* in respect of exceptional circumstances and children's best interests.

The temporary hold in place since 22 February 2017 on applications falling for refusal under the Immigration Rules with which the judgment was concerned will be lifted on 10 August when these changes take effect. As of 30 June 2017, there were around 5,000 such applications on hold.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6259/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6255/>

The Supreme Court judgment referred to above can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0011-judgment.pdf>

The Ministerial Statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-07-20/HCWS95/>

Visas: Malawi

David Linden (SNP) [7349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with (a) the Scottish Government and (b) the Scotland-Malawi Partnership on the issue of visitor visas to Malawians.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has an established dialogue with the Scotland Malawi Partnership, which includes discussion on visas for Malawian nationals. The Home Office has had no recent discussions with the Scottish Government on this subject.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7349/>

Entry Clearances: Bangladesh

The following six questions all received the same answer

Naz Shah (Labour) [6647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from Bangladeshi nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those applications were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Entry Clearances: India

Naz Shah (Labour) [6648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from Indian nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Naz Shah (Labour) [6649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from Pakistani nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Entry Clearances: USA

Naz Shah (Labour) [6650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from American nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Entry Clearances: Canada

Naz Shah (Labour) [6651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from Canadian nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Entry Clearances: Australia

Naz Shah (Labour) [6652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many marriage visa applications from Australian nationals her Department received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016; and how many of those were (i) accepted, (ii) rejected and (iii) rejected for failing to meet the income threshold requirement in each of those years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Information on the number of Family: Partner applications, and the number of cases resolved (i.e. decisions, of which how many were granted or refused), is published quarterly. This is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2017/list-of-tables#visas>

It is not possible to separately identify applications made or decided under the previous or new rules. Not all of the family route statistics from 9 July 2012 onwards relate to the new Immigration Rules. Further details are provided in the 'Family' section of the User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6647/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6648/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6649/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6650/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6651/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6652/>

Language requirements

British Nationality: English Language

Ian Lavery (Labour) [7221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department has blacklisted citizenship applications from applicants who took the TOEIC test through companies accused of fraudulent activities; when those applicants were defrauded by those companies; and what steps she is taking to ensure that those applicants can still apply with an alternative proof of their level of English being of the required standard to process their application fairly.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is open to any person to apply for citizenship if they meet the statutory requirements.

Those applying for naturalisation as a British citizen are required to demonstrate a knowledge of English at B1 level or above, and that they are of good character. As a TOEIC test is no longer a recognised English test qualification, an alternative qualification must be presented to satisfy the knowledge of English requirement. Where evidence is available which identifies individuals as having obtained an invalid test certificate, additional scrutiny is applied by caseworkers as part of the assessment of good character, as would be applied to any other potential indication of adverse character or deception. The decision reached is based on the facts of the case and the overall assessment of the applicant's suitability for naturalisation in accordance with nationality law and published policy.

Further guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nationality-policy-guidance>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7221/>

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Drew (Labour (Co-op)) [8952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the new A2 qualification requirement on non-UK residents seeking permanent leave to remain.

David Drew (Labour (Co-op)) [8953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for permanent leave to remain have been refused as a result of not meeting the new A2 qualification, for each parliamentary constituency.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The A2 level English language requirement under the family Immigration Rules applies to applications for further temporary leave to remain as a partner or parent, after 30 months in the UK on a five-year route to settlement. We expect those coming to the UK on a family visa with only basic English to become more fluent over time, to support their integration. The requested breakdown of refusals would require a manual review of all relevant applications, which would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8952/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8953/>

Visas: Married People

Judith Cummins (Labour) [7457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to change the English language requirement for spouse visa applications; and if she will make statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Being able to speak English is fundamental to successful integration into British society, helping migrants to participate in community life and find work.

The Supreme Court has upheld the lawfulness of the English language requirement for spouse visas. It agreed that the requirement strikes a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a spouse to settle here and of the community in general.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7457/>

EU Nationals

Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [3555] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how continuous residence in paragraph 6 of his Department's policy paper

entitled Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, published on 26 June 2017, is defined.

Reply from Robin Walker: Any EU citizen in the UK before the specified date with five years' continuous residence will be able to apply for UK settled status. Other EU citizens who arrive before the specified date will be able to stay until they have the five years' residence to apply for UK settled status.

Five years' continuous residence is the period in EU law required, in most cases, for acquiring permanent residence status, and also under UK law for non-EEA nationals acquiring indefinite leave to remain.

It is considered across the immigration system to be the period of time when an individual is fully integrated, and has contributed enough to the UK economy and society for restrictions on their immigration status to be lifted and for them to be able to settle here permanently.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-06/3555/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 4682, how an EU citizen will (a) know and (b) prove he or she has deemed leave.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Deemed leave will apply to all EU citizens (and their family members) who are lawfully resident in the UK on the date of exit. The Government will publish clear guidance on who will benefit from deemed leave on GOV.UK.

Deemed leave will be granted by Order, which will set out the conditions required in order for EU citizens and their family members to benefit from that leave. Such leave does not require an application or documentation proving that such leave is held.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6709/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-12/4682/>

Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6710] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2017 to Question 3562, when her Department plans to set up an application process to enable those who wish to do so to get their new settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We intend to create a new application process for the new UK settled status and aim to make it as simple and user-friendly as possible. We will make an announcement on this in due course once an agreement with the EU has been reached. We intend the scheme to open in 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6710/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-06/3562/>

Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 4290, whether she plans for the Free Movement Directive rules on rights retained by family members of an EU citizen in certain circumstances to continue after the specified date.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), sets out the UK's proposals for securing the rights of EU citizens and their family members who are resident in the UK before a specified date. As set out in my response to question 4290, Paragraph 29 footnote 6 sets out that the definition of family member includes those with retained rights. Further details on the eligibility criteria will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6711/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-11/4290/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 July 2017 to Question 3555, whether those who currently qualify or have qualified for permanent residence without five years' continuous lawful residence will be eligible for settled status or whether they will have to satisfy the five years requirement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Those who currently qualify for permanent residence before completion of a continuous period of five years of residence, as per Article 17 Directive 2004/38, will also be eligible for settled status and will not need to satisfy the five year continuous residence requirement.

Further information can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631038/Joint_technical_note_on_the_comparison_of_EU-UK_positions_on_citizens_rights.pdf.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6715/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-06/3555/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 July 2017 to Question 3560, whether non-UK EU nationals who acquire settled status but are then absent for more than two consecutive years from the UK will lose their settled status without any right to return other than under UK immigration rules applying to other non-UK citizens or future immigration rules applying to non-UK EU citizens.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As set out in paragraph 20 of the Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), settled status would generally be lost if a person was absent from the UK for more than two years, unless they have strong ties here.

We will publish more details of the new scheme, including details of eligibility criteria and the definition of strong ties, in due course once an agreement has been reached.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6716/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-06/3560/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6866] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2017 to Question 5865, whether applicants for settled status will need to have resided legally for a continuous period of five years within the meaning of Article 16(1) and Article 16(2) of the EU Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As set out on page 5 of the “Joint technical note on the comparison of EU-UK positions on citizens’ rights” (www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-technical-note-on-the-comparison-of-eu-uk-positions-on-citizens-rights), the UK’s position is that eligibility for settled status should be based on the conditions set out in Articles 16 and 17 of the EU Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6866/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-18/5865/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6867] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2017 to Question 5865, whether people who currently qualify under the derogation in Article 17 of the EU Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC will qualify for settled status subject to the same criteria.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As set out on page 5 of the “Joint technical note on the comparison of EU-UK positions on citizens’ rights” (www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-technical-note-on-the-comparison-of-eu-uk-positions-on-citizens-rights), the UK’s position is that eligibility for settled status should be based on the conditions set out in Articles 16 and 17 of the EU Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6867/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-18/5865/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6869] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, whether he has received evidence of EU nationals facing discrimination in access to services in the UK as a result of the lack of clarity on their future legal status; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Steve Baker: There will be no change to the rights and status of EU nationals living in the UK, nor UK nationals living in the EU, while the UK remains in the EU. This means there will be no change to the ability of EU nationals to access services as they do now whilst the UK is an EU member state. Our clear intention during negotiations is to ensure that EU citizens living in the UK before the specified date will continue to enjoy access to public services after we leave the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6869/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [7535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph 20 of her Department's policy paper Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, published on 26 June 2017, how an EU citizen with settled status returning to the UK after a two-year absence could prove strong ties to the UK in order to retain settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government proposes that discretion be applied to those EU citizens for whom settled status would otherwise be lost after an absence from the UK of greater than two years, if they can demonstrate sufficiently strong ties to the UK. The aim is to protect groups such as (but not limited to) students and posted workers, who have lived most of their life in the UK and have only been abroad for more than two years because of the nature of their work, study or other circumstances, but plan to return to continue their life here. The matter is subject to negotiation and we will publish further details in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7535/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [9292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens applied for leave to remain in the UK in the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office does not publish data on any in country applications for leave from EU nationals, but does publish information on a small number of out of country visa applications and grants. The latest published data can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables#visas>

EU nationals benefit from a right to reside in the UK which is derived from Directive 2004/38/EC ('the Free Movement Directive'), as implemented by the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016. This legislation does not require EU nationals to hold any form of leave under the UK's domestic Immigration Rules in order to remain in the UK. However, they can apply for leave to remain if they wish.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9292/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [9445] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all EU citizens are reassured of their right to remain in the UK for two years after March 2019 if the Government's proposals are agreed to.

Reply from Steve Baker: The UK's policy paper "Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU" makes clear that EU citizens who have lived continuously and lawfully in the UK for at least five years automatically have a permanent right to reside under EU law. The paper also makes clear that EU citizens who have lived in the UK less than five years before the specified date will be allowed to stay until they have five years' residence, and will then be eligible to apply for settled status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9445/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [7251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's policy paper entitled The United Kingdom's exit from the European Union: safeguarding the position of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU, published on 26 June 2017, whether the application fees for the various status' announced in that policy paper will be set following consultation; and whether EU citizens will be required to pay such fees each time they transition from one status to another status such as from temporary status to settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Fees and charges related to the new settlement scheme are being considered as part of the negotiations. As set out in the published joint technical note on citizens' rights (available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-technical-note-on-the-comparison-of-eu-uk-positions-on-citizens-rights), both the UK and EU position is that documents should be issued free of charge or for a charge not exceeding that imposed on nationals for issuing of similar documents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7251/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [7253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph 6 of the Government's policy paper entitled The United Kingdom's exit from the European Union: safeguarding the position of EU citizens living in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU, published on 26 June 2017, what the definition is of five years continuous residence.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We will publish further detail on the specifics of the new application process for settled status, including detailed eligibility criteria, in due course. As set out in the published joint technical note on citizens' rights (available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-technical-note-on-the-comparison-of-eu-uk-positions-on-citizens-rights), both the UK and EU position is that the conditions for acquiring settled status should be based on the conditions for acquiring permanent residence as per Article 16 of Directive 2004/38.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7253/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [7164] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long she expects a decision on settled status to take once an application has been submitted; and whether there will be a maximum waiting limit for such a decision.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published service standards for all Indefinite Leave to Remain applications are to complete 100% of straightforward applications within six months.

Where an application is defined as non-straightforward, due to complexity, the

customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7164/>

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6823] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of whether uncertainty around the future status of non-UK EU citizens in the UK will lead to discrimination in access to housing; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Alok Sharma: No assessment has been made. However, the government has been clear that providing certainty for EU nationals in the UK is a priority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6823/>

EU Nationals: Elections

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [7661] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will make it his policy to allow EU27 citizens to continue to be able to vote and to stand as candidates in local government elections after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Steve Baker: EU citizens with settled status, or who are on the pathway to settled status, will retain the right to vote and stand in any UK election which uses the local government register, so long as the rights of British citizens living in the EU are similarly protected.

The UK has set out its position on this matter in negotiations with the Commission and we continue to encourage them to review the right of UK citizens, established in EU countries, to continue to vote in municipal elections.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7661/>

Refugees

Refugees

The following four questions all received the same answer

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [9031] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, of applicants who were refused leave to remain as a stateless person since April 2013, how many were recognised as stateless persons but not considered eligible for leave to remain.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [9032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain as a stateless person have been received each year from April 2013 to present; and how many such applications were (a) granted, (b) refused, (c) declared invalid, (d) withdrawn, (e) still pending after six months, (f) still pending after 12 months and (g) still pending after 18 months.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [9086] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to record and publish data in relation to the number and outcome of applications received from stateless persons each year under paragraph 3, schedule 2 to the British Nationality Act 1981.

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [9087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to include within published immigration statistics data relating to applications for leave to remain as a stateless person under Part 14 of the Immigration Rules.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am sorry but we do not hold the data required to answer the question in the requested format.

The Home Office regularly shares information with UNHCR, relating to stateless applications and decisions made. The information provided is published by

UNHCR, in regular trend reports. The latest published report by UNHCR on mid year trends June 2016 can be found at link below:

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/58aa8f247/mid-year-trends-june-2016.html>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9031/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9032/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9086/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9087/>

Refugees

Anneliese Dodds (Labour (Co-op)) [6175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to reach decisions on applications for leave to remain in the UK as a stateless person during each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The data required to answer the question in the requested format is not held.

The UK is a signatory to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In April 2013, the UK introduced Immigration Rules to allow stateless persons to be formally recognised as stateless and granted leave to remain where they do not otherwise qualify under any other provisions and cannot be removed to the country of their former habitual residence because they are not admissible for purposes of residence there. Those who have committed serious crimes or are considered to be a danger to the security or the public order of the UK are not eligible for stateless leave. Those who qualify under the Immigration Rules are normally granted 30 months limited leave to remain and can apply for further leave when that expires. They are eligible to apply for settlement after completing 5 years limited leave.

Stateless persons and their dependent children, who believe that they have a fear of return to their home country, can also make an application for asylum under the 1951 Refugee Convention. Those who qualify under the Immigration Rules are normally granted limited leave to remain for a 5 year period, with the option to apply for settlement when that leave expires.

A stateless person may also make an application to register as a British citizen, if they are not recognised as a citizen of any country, providing they meet the qualifying criteria.

The Home Office regularly shares information with UNHCR, relating to stateless applications and decisions made. The information provided is published by UNHCR, in regular trend reports. The latest published report by UNHCR can be found at link below:

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/58aa8f247/mid-year-trends-june-2016.html>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6175/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Linden (SNP) [7448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications her Department received for refugee family reunion visas on the basis

of exceptional compelling compassionate circumstances outside the immigration rules for each country and year since 2010.

David Linden (SNP) [7449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee family reunion visas were granted on the basis of exceptional compelling compassionate circumstances outside the immigration rules for each country and year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The data is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on visa applications in the Family category can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638590/entry-visas1-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7448/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7449/>

Refugees: Children

David Lammy (Labour) [7695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to ensure that unaccompanied child refugees are able to be reunited with their families in the UK once the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UK strongly supports the principle of family unity and there are already legal routes for families to be reunited safely that are not dependent on our EU membership. The UK's family reunion policy is generous, and we have and continue to reunite refugees with their immediate family, including granting over 23,000 family reunion visas over the last five years. The EU Dublin Regulation determines the Member State with responsibility for assessing an asylum claim. Under the Regulation unaccompanied children present in another EU Member State can be transferred to the UK to have their asylum claim assessed where they have a qualifying family member or relative legally present and transfer is in their best interests. We expect cooperation on asylum and migration with our European partners to continue after the UK leaves the EU, and will discuss the exact nature of this cooperation in the negotiations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7695/>

Refugees: Children

Kate Osamor (Labour) [7827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to ensure that unaccompanied children will be able to be reunited with their close family when the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UK strongly supports the principle of family unity and there are already legal routes for families to be reunited safely that are not dependent on our EU membership. The UK's family reunion policy is generous, and we have and continue to reunite refugees with their immediate family, including granting over 23,000 family reunion visas over the last five years. The EU Dublin Regulation determines the Member State with responsibility for assessing an asylum claim. Under the Regulation unaccompanied children present in another EU Member State can be transferred to the UK to have their asylum claim assessed where they have a qualifying family member or relative legally present and transfer is in their best interests. We expect cooperation on asylum and migration with our European partners to continue after the UK leaves the EU, and will discuss the exact nature of this cooperation in negotiations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7827/>

Refugees: Children

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [8918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will consider the recommendations of the report by Christine Beddoe on separated and unaccompanied minors in Europe.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has noted the report by the Human Trafficking Foundation into the independent inquiry into the situation of separated and unaccompanied minors in parts of Europe and is considering its recommendations. We are already working on a number of the areas addressed in the report.

The UK is working very closely with France and other EU Member States in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This includes ensuring the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin Regulation, to allow children with qualifying family in the UK to be transferred here for consideration of their asylum claim, where it is in the child's best interests. We also remain fully committed to implementing section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, and are working with Member State authorities and other partners to identify and transfer children to the UK quickly and safely. However, the primary responsibility for unaccompanied children lies with the authorities in the country in which children are present. The UK government does not have the authority to operate unauthorised on the territory of another sovereign state.

The Department for Education and Home Office continue to work together with local authorities and NGOs to ensure that vulnerable children are safe, and their welfare promoted once they arrive in the UK. A joint safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children is due to be published in the Autumn.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8918/>

Refugees: Children

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [8592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking together with the French Government to reduce the level of unnecessary force used by the police in that country against child refugees and to ensure the protection of unaccompanied child refugees seeking a place of safety in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The responsibility for maintaining law and order in France lies with the French government.

No one should live in makeshift camps in Calais, which is why we continue to work closely with the French authorities on border security and migration issues, including helping to fund alternative facilities elsewhere in France for Calais migrants provided by the French government. However, the primary responsibility for unaccompanied children lies with the authorities in the country in which children are present. The UK government does not have the authority to operate unauthorised on the territory of another sovereign state.

The UK is also proud to have transferred over 750 children from France to the UK last year as a result of the Calais camp clearance, and we continue to work with the French authorities to transfer unaccompanied children who may be eligible under the Dublin Regulation or section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8592/>

Asylum

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [8103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that expert medical opinions are taken

into account as part of the application process for victims of torture seeking asylum.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [8106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support torture victims seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: All officials making decisions on asylum claims receive a dedicated five-week foundation training programme which incorporates all relevant aspects of international and domestic law.

Within this programme there are specific sections on torture and medical reports, and how they should be considered and analysed in asylum claims. Medical reports will be considered together with other written and oral evidence in determining an asylum claim to ensure alleged victims of torture have their claims assessed fairly and sensitively.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/8103/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/8106/>

Asylum

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [8104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that asylum assessment standards comply with her Department's guidelines.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose. We continue to work to improve the quality of decision-making to ensure that we properly consider all the evidence provided and get decisions right the first time. UK Visas and Immigration has an internal audit process, consisting of reviews by senior case workers and independent auditors, which assesses the application of Home Office policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/8104/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [7032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers fall into destitution or homelessness during the process of their application for refuge in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered. If an applicant has an emergency need for accommodation they apply for support under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 whilst their application for support is being processed; the vast majority of such requests are processed on the same day.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7032/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [7033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many section 98 applications submitted from asylum seekers before 3pm receive a reply on the same day.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: If an asylum seeker has an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be provided with support under Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 whilst their support application is being processed. For the period 26 June 2017 until 31 August 2017 98.1% of all section

98 requests received a same day decision whether they were received before or after 3pm.

These figures are based on local management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7033/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [7034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many section 95 support applications from asylum seekers are dealt with within 14 days.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We do not have a target of determining support applications within 14 days and therefore do not collect data on how many cases are determined within that time period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7034/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [7035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many straightforward asylum applications are completed within six months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office has recently started publishing performance against the service standard to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within 6 months of the date of claim. The first publication was on 25 August 2017 as part of the government's Transparency Agenda. The full data release can be found at the following address

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> . This data shows that of the 4,230 straight forward claims made in quarter 4 of 2016, 4,177 or 98.7% received a decision within 6 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7035/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [7036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many civil servants process asylum applications; and how many have done so in each year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Decisions on asylum claims are made by Decision Makers in Asylum Intake and Casework; and the Home Office has rolling recruitment campaigns to maintain the number of Decision Makers which allows cases to be progressed in line with service standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7036/>

Asylum

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [7343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department uses for assessments of humanitarian protection after refugees have been in the UK for five years; and what that guidance advises on the (a) retention of documents, (b) time to be taken for the process and (c) criteria by which decisions should be made; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Guidance is based on asylum policy "Settlement Protection". This guidance explains the circumstances in which the Home Office will consider an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) following a grant of refugee status and leave or humanitarian protection (HP). The Settlement Protection Asylum Instruction is published policy, and therefore publically available on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/settlement-protection-asylum-policy-instruction>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7343/>

Asylum

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [8672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consideration has been given to decreasing delays in processing asylum support applications; and whether the Government has considered allowing people seeking sanctuary in the UK the right to work.

Reply from roger Godsiff: We monitor the time it takes to decide applications for asylum support closely and have brought down the processing times over the last year. If a destitute asylum seeker has an immediate need for support, for example because they are homeless, they can apply to be admitted to emergency accommodation. We aim to make decisions on these cases on the same day.

The Government has a longstanding policy of only granting asylum seekers permission to work in the UK if their asylum claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own and only in jobs on the shortage occupation list. There are no plans to change this policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8672/>

Asylum: Glasgow East

David Linden (SNP) [7641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 June 2017 to Question 106, how many asylum cases awaiting an asylum decision at 31 July 2017 gave a last address which was within Glasgow East constituency.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is only possible to supply data as of 30 June. Our records indicate that the number of asylum cases awaiting an initial decision at 30 June 2017 where the latest address is in the Glasgow East constituency is 109.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7641/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/106/>

Asylum: Interviews

Anneliese Dodds (Labour (Co-op)) [6216] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to carry out substantive asylum interviews following a claim for asylum in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The data required to answer the question is not recorded in a way that can be reported on accurately.

The Home Office publishes figures on the outcome of asylum claims made within 6 months as part of its transparency agenda.

The latest data can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-19/6216/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [6585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what occasions contingency accommodation outside the initial accommodation centres was being used to accommodate asylum seekers who receive (i) s98 and (ii) s95 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 during 2016-17.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Contingency accommodation arrangements were used to provide s.98 accommodation in the first three quarters of 2016/17 to ensure that destitute asylum seekers were safely accommodated during a period of high demand.

No provider has regularly accommodated supported asylum seekers in contingency accommodation outside the initial accommodation estate since January 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6585/>

Asylum: Zimbabwe

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Linden (SNP) [7352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications from Zimbabwean nationals have been (a) received, (b) granted and (c) refused in each year since 2008.

Asylum: Afghanistan

David Linden (SNP) [7197] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been (a) granted and (b) refused to Afghan nationals in each year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Figures on asylum applications, grants and refusals by nationality are published quarterly. The latest data is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638597/asylum1-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7352/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7197/>

Immigration detention

Immigration

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [8537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will introduce a time limit for holding immigration and asylum applicants.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has no plans to introduce a fixed time limit on immigration detention as this would only encourage detainees to refuse to cooperate with immigration and asylum processes until they reached the point at which they had to be released from detention. Published Home Office policy is clear, however, that detention is only used for the shortest period necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8537/>

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [7672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place to ensure that human rights legislation is complied with in respect of detainees at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Human Rights Act 1998 requires that primary and subordinate legislation must be given effect in a way that is compatible with the Convention rights defined in the Act.

Detainees in the immigration detention estate, including those in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC), must be treated in accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, the operating standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders.

Service providers for IRCs are contractually required to comply with all relevant UK legislation.

IRCs are subject to statutory oversight by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and by Independent Monitoring Boards who are both members of the National Preventative Mechanism comprising a group of independent bodies which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detainees.

This contributes to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7672/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Stephen Doughty (Labour) [8709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether proceedings are being (a) considered and (b) brought against any individual members of (i) her Department's and (ii) G4S staff as a result of investigations arising from BBC Panorama's investigation into Brook House.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government takes detainee welfare very seriously. Immediate action has been taken in response to the allegations raised by BBC Panorama. Sussex police has begun an investigation to establish whether criminal offences have been committed.

G4S has suspended ten officers and is carrying out full investigations. The Home Office has suspended a former G4S officer, now a Home Office employee, and is carrying out an investigation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8709/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [8542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is that detainees have remained at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The length of detention figures for people in the detention estate are available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638608/detention-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8542/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Children: Refugees

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to implement their commitment to bring 480 unaccompanied child refugees from Europe to the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government are committed to transferring a specified number of eligible children to the UK under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 as part of our broader response to the migration crisis. All transfers need to take place in line with member states' national laws. Last year, we transferred over 200 children under the scheme. We have accepted further referrals in recent weeks and we expect children to arrive in the UK in the coming weeks.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, does the Minister agree that the figure of 200 to date is disappointing? If that is the fault of the Greek, Italian and French authorities, that is very disappointing. If it is the fault of the British Government, it is shocking. Which is it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, first, I say to the noble Lord that we continue to work with our partners in Europe under the scheme to transfer children where we can. However, as he will know and as I have said to the House before, we cannot just go into countries and take children. It might be helpful to explain the broader context in which we operate. In 2016 the UK settled more refugees from outside Europe than any other EU state. According to Eurostat figures, over a third of people resettled in the EU came to the UK. We have granted asylum or another form of leave to over 9,000 children in the past year—over 42,000 since 2010.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, what are the Government doing about children who have a right under the Dublin III agreement, particularly in the Calais and Dunkirk areas?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we continue to work with the French Government to ensure that those children are also transferred.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the UK's homegrown family reunion rules, as it were, are much narrower than the Dublin III convention in that families are defined much more narrowly—limited to parents under the UK's rules. What will happen to the Dublin III convention when we leave the EU?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, when we leave the EU the Dublin convention will need to be reassessed under our own laws. Noble Lords will appreciate that this country has been a welcoming and safe haven for refugees and asylum seekers over the years—I have just given the staggering figure of more than 42,000 children since 2010—and we will continue to meet our commitment to those who need our help.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister accept that there has been a major problem in Europe with unaccompanied children going missing, a subject about which I have written to her on numerous occasions? Does she also accept that, in the context of Dublin III and whatever may come next, we should at least look at the right of unaccompanied children to go to the nearest embassy or consulate in order to register their interest in reunification, rather than having to travel miles from anywhere in order to go through that process?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with the noble Lord that we remain concerned about unaccompanied children across Europe. It is pleasing that in recent months, through our assistance, as well as financial assistance from across the EU, the EU relocation scheme has been far more firmly established. We will continue to work with our EU partners on the plight of children.

Lord Gordon of Strathbland (Labour): In considering applications for asylum, will the Government pay particular and sensitive attention to children from minority religious groups, such as Yazidis and Christians, who in many cases, regrettably, face as much threat of persecution within the camps as they did within the countries they were forced to leave?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord raises an important point, as has my noble friend Lady Berridge in the past in regard to the Yazidis and the Christians. We have widened the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme in the region. Ultimately, the best way to safeguard these groups is to establish lasting peace in the region, and that means defeating Daesh, promoting a peaceful transition in Syria and helping to deliver political reform and reconciliation in Iraq. ...

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): My Lords, does the noble Baroness agree that the Government are to be congratulated on the large number of child refugees they have taken? Does she further agree that we need to proceed with care in that if we take refugee children who have already arrived in Europe, we will tempt other families to send their children off at great risk? It is a much better course to do what the Government are doing: take them from the region itself and deal with Christians in a fair and sensible way.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally agree with the noble Lord

and I am very proud of what we have done. We have done better than any other EU state in taking people from outside Europe. In addition, the noble Lord referred to what I think he described as the pull factor to Europe. The sums involved in helping people in the region are staggering. For what it would cost to help 3,000 people here, we could help 800,000 in the region. Those figures are worth bearing in mind.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-09-13/debates/F87CD240-92FB-4A3D-8583-9E571FCFA8F3/ChildrenRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Doctors: Refugees

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench) [HL1257] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee doctors have been able to become registered by the General Medical Council in the last five years; and in which medical specialties those doctors are practicing.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The information requested is not held by the Department.

The General Medical Council (GMC) is the independent regulator of doctors in the United Kingdom. It has advised that from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2017, the GMC has registered 117 refugee doctors. Of these doctors, currently 105 are registered, and 104 with a licence to practise.

The GMC has informed us that the numbers of practising refugee doctors split per medical specialties are very small and could lead to identification of individuals, and we are therefore not providing this information.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1257/>

Doctors: Refugees

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Conservative) [HL1258] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee doctors are currently enrolled in active refugee doctor programmes in the UK, specifically (1) Reache North West (Salford), (2) Building Bridges (London), (3) WARD (Cardiff), (4) The Bridges Programme (Glasgow) and (5) North-East England (Stockton-on-Tees); and how much annual funding each of those programmes receive from Health Education England.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: Health Education England (HEE) does not provide funding for programmes in Scotland and Wales. Funding for the requested programmes in England is shown in the following table.

Refugee doctor programme	HEE funding (2017/18)	Doctors currently enrolled in programme
Reache North West (Salford)	£363,357	54
Building Bridges (London)	£290,510	-
North-East England (Stockton-on-Tees)	£63,180	12

Source: HEE

Notes: Data for Cardiff and Glasgow is not available as these programmes do not fall within HEE's remit. Breakdown for the numbers of doctors currently enrolled on the Building Bridges programme (London) is not available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1258/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into Brook House Immigration Removal Centre: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/brook-house-immigration-removal-centre/oral/70108.html>

UK Parliament Petition

System of obtaining Permanent Residence Certification

Tommy Sheppard: ... This petition signed by my constituents and a similar petition signed by another 200 of my constituents express concern at the difficulties many EU citizens living in the UK face in obtaining permanent residence. I wish to record, in particular, the efforts of Uta Rosenbrock in bringing this matter to my attention and that of the House.

The petitioners request that the House urges the Government to change the procedures for obtaining permanent residence, and they detail seven specific reforms that would improve the process, which I invite Members of the House to study in detail.

The petition states ... that the current system of PR discriminates against many groups of EU/EEA residents and their non-EEA spouses/ civil partners; further that this reform will facilitate EU/EAA nationals to obtain Permanent Resident Certification/Card (PR), currently mandatory to become UK citizens (for those who wish to do so).

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that British spouses/civil partners to be considered as sponsors or their EU/EEA spouses/civil partners in PR applications; further to scrap Comprehensive Sickness Insurance as PR requirement for EU/EEA students, homemakers, carers, retired and disabled people or applicants self-sufficient through other income, including their non-EEA spouses/civil partners; EU/EEA nationals, their spouses/civil partners, their children, who have exercised treaty rights for less than 5 years, to complete their journey to PR; further that parents/carers of British citizens to obtain PR automatically; further that spouses/civil partners of UK service men/women to acquire PR without proof of residency; further that PR to be protected under UK law; further that type of residency evidence, currently accepted for PR/ILR, to be accepted for UK citizenship; further that leaders are urged to act now to reform the system of obtaining Permanent Residence Certification/Card (PR). ... [P002051]

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-09-12/debates/1A7C94AA-510A-4B5E-9075-67499C4C555B/SystemOfObtainingPermanentResidenceCertification>

Press Release

Abuse, exploitation and trafficking 'stark reality' for migrant children trying to reach Europe

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57496#.WbkuL9MjGnY>

New Publications

Community Sponsorship Guidance for prospective sponsors

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626810/Community_sponsorship_guidance_for_prospective_sponsors_July_2017.pdf

Mini Guide

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/620069/MiniGuide_16th_June_Finished.pdf

Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Harrowing_Journeys_Children_and_youth_on_the_move_across_the_Mediterranean.pdf

News

Brexit: UK Government launches plea for 'valued' EU citizens to stay in Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-latest-news-uk-eu-citizens-valued-stay-leave-europeans-britain-immigration-rules-brexodus-a7947181.html>

Canadian teacher left in visa limbo as class taught by temporary staff

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/canadian-teacher-left-in-visa-limbo-as-class-taught-by-temporary-staff-1-4557288>

Samim Bigzad: Afghan asylum seeker to be returned to UK from Kabul after Home Office loses court battle

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/samim-bigzad-afghanistan-asylum-seeker-plane-fly-kabul-uk-returned-back-home-office-legal-court-a7950866.html>

Home secretary ignores court order and sends asylum seeker to Kabul

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/14/home-secretary-ignores-court-order-sends-asylum-seeker-kabul-samim-bigzad>

'I'm a migrant in a foreign country' – Europeans protest at Westminster

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/13/brexit-european-migrant-foreign-country-the3million-parliament-citizens-rights>

'I can't wait to work, but I'm not allowed to': young refugees on living in limbo

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/17/britains-young-refugees-claiming-new-place-on-earth-exhibition>

Deportation backlog rises by thousands

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/deportation-backlog-rises-by-thousands-bcf2xwq0p>

Slaves on our Streets: Cardinal Nichols chairs think tank's first round table on abolishing modern slavery

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/slaves-on-our-streets-modern-slavery-think-tank-round-table-cardinal-vincent-nichols-kevin-hyland-a7945841.html>

Slaves on our Streets: How the Catholic Church is working with police to bring an end to modern slavery

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/slaves-on-our-streets-cardinal-vincent-nichols-catholic-church-pope-francis-modern-slavery-sex-a7945836.html>

Slaves on our Streets: Abigail's story of entrapment and prostitution provides a glimpse of a brutal reality

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/modern-slavery-campaign-abigails-story-case-study-prostitution-sex-slavery-human-trafficking-london-a7942326.html>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Debate

Serve Scotland

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11069&i=101089#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Rosh HaShanah message from the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP

https://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17ix_rh/fm.html

Jewish New Year reception 2017: Prime Minister's speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/jewish-new-year-reception-2017-prime-ministers-speech>

News

Meet the gypsy girls who leave school at the age of 11 to stay home and clean

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/meet-gypsy-girls-who-leave-1144125>

Former Moderator says a cohesive society trumps a tolerant one

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/former_moderator_says_a_cohesive_society_trumps_a_tolerant_one

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Equality Evidence Strategy

S5W-11053: Mark Griffin (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to prioritise addressing evidence gaps in relation to race and ethnicity detailed in Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy 2017-2021.

Reply from Angela Constance: As set out in the Equality Evidence Strategy, prioritising evidence gaps will take into account how important data will be in informing major policies, programmes and frameworks. The Race Equality Framework and the National Performance Framework are the starting points for the early years of the evidence strategy in relation to race and ethnicity. A Race Equality Action Plan setting out the key actions for this Parliamentary session will be published in 2017 and will further inform the Strategy's priorities.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11053>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Professions: Ethnic Groups

Philip Davies (Conservative) [9132] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that NHS staff are representative of the population in respect of ethnicity.

Reply from Philip Dunne: The Department is committed to ensuring that the treatment, representation and opportunities of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) staff in the workplace match the values and principles that the National Health Service represents; a fair and equitable NHS for all.

The Department has implemented a number of initiatives to help promote equality and inclusion for NHS staff.

The Workforce Race Equality Standard was mandated to the NHS in April 2015. It requires NHS provider organisations to demonstrate progress against a number of indicators of workforce equality, including how representative each organisation's leadership is of its workforce as a whole.

The NHS Leadership Academy (NHS LA) runs two positive action programmes, "Ready Now" and "Stepping Up", for health and care BAME staff. Proposals to enable a significant expansion in the size of each programme are currently being considered.

The NHS LA is also developing the Building Leadership for Inclusion Programme. This Programme will focus on unlocking leadership potential by ensuring the voices of those employees who are most negatively affected by exclusive leadership practices and organisational cultures shape leadership development interventions.

As at March 2017, 42% of doctors employed in NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups, whose stated nationality was recorded, are BAME. The figure for nurses is 21%. This compares with a figure of 14% across the general population of England and Wales, based on ONS's most recent 2011 Census figures¹.

1 Digital:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/media/31232/Equality-and-diversity-NHS-Trusts-and-CCGs-March-2017/xls/equal-div-trust-mar-2017>

and ONS:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105213319/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/key-statistics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/rpt-ethnicity.html>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9132/>

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Diana Johnson (Labour) [7089] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many complaints related to black and ethnic minority equality issues in prisons the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman received in each year since 1997-98; and what proportion of the estimated black and ethnic minority prison population made a complaint in each year.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: The following tables show: 1) the numbers of fatal incident investigations of transgender prisoners; 2) complaints received about racial equality issues; 3) complaints received relating to prisons; and 4) complaints received about transgender issues:

1) Fatal incident investigations of transgender prisoners started, by financial year

Year	PPO fatal incident investigations started
2012-2013	1
2013-2014	0
2014-2015	1
2015-2016	2
2016-2017	4
Total	9

2) Complaints received by the PPO about racial equality issues, by financial year

Year	Complaints Received	Eligible for investigation
2012-2013	30	5
2013-2014	23	13
2014-2015	21	7
2015-2016	29	15
2016-2017	12	7

3) Complaints received relating to prisons, by financial year

Year	Complaints Received	Eligible for investigation
2012-2013	4,894	2,704
2013-2014	4,438	2,033
2014-2015	4,582	2,310
2015-2016	4,3	2,288
2016-2017	4,657	2,505

4) Complaints received by the PPO about transgender equality issues, by financial year

Year	Complaints Received	Eligible for investigation
2012-2013	6	5
2013-2014	3	1
2014-2015	4	2
2015-2016	10	6
2016-2017	5	4

We have been able to provide a consistent time series back to 2012/13. The time required to provide data going back to 1997/98 would incur disproportionate cost. We do not hold information on the overall proportion of the prison population that made a complaint or the proportion of the estimated transgender prisoner population for the time periods requested. There may be other similar cases where the PPO investigated a death but were not aware of the person having previously identified as transgender and therefore their death would not be included in these figures. The Government believes that prisons should be places of safety and reform. We welcome the work that the PPO has done to prevent self-inflicted deaths in custody, promote equality and inclusion, and improve safety in prisons more generally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7089/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crime

2. **Simon Clarke (Conservative):** What steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to implement the Government's plan for tackling hate crime. [900853]

Reply from the Solicitor General (Robert Buckland): Last month the CPS took new steps to fulfil one of its commitments in the cross-Government hate crime

action plan by publishing revised public statements and legal guidance on all strands of hate crime.

Simon Clarke: Homophobic and transphobic hate crime prosecutions in the north-east are up by 55% in recent years. Will my hon. and learned Friend join me in welcoming that increase in prosecutions and, crucially, will he inform the House of what he is doing to encourage the spread of best practice in how we continue to bear down on this horrible crime?

Reply from the Solicitor General: On my visit to the north-east CPS, I met representatives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to discuss the ways in which the regional CPS is engaging with that community. I am glad to say that, on a wider basis, the CPS is developing a training package on these issues with input from the relevant leading organisations in the field.

Simon Hoare (Conservative): Alas, we have seen an increase in the use of all types of social media as a vehicle for all types of hate crime. What steps has the CPS taken, is it taking or does it plan to take to deal with all types of online hate crime?

The Solicitor General: Last month the CPS published revised guidance committing it to treat online hate crime as seriously as offline offences, taking into account the impact on the wider community when deciding the question of prosecution in the public interest.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-09-14/debates/FBCF9334-5762-4EE5-9424-6B5F1C0EE2E6/HateCrime>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Schools: Hate Crime

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [7203] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what training is available for teachers to handle or report hate crime in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government's Educate Against Hate website, which aims to provide high quality resources to teachers, contains resources from the Crown Prosecution Service to help explore and challenge homophobic and transphobic bullying and hate crime.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/northwest/working_with_you/hate_crime_schools_project/.

The Teachers' Standards set out the personal and professional conduct expected of all teachers. These include; having regard to the need to safeguard pupils' wellbeing, showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others, not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. All providers of initial teacher training (ITT) must comply with the statutory criteria, and guidance accompanying these criteria makes it clear that ITT providers have a duty to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (CTSA 2015). In exercising this duty, ITT providers will ensure that all trainee teachers are appropriately trained in the Prevent duty.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/7203/>

Press Releases

Education discrimination tackled in new legal scheme

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/education-discrimination-tackled-new-legal-scheme>

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust reception speech by Communities Secretary Sajid Javid

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/holocaust-memorial-day-trust-reception>

New Publications

Scottish Government response to: It is not Cool to be Cruel: prejudice-based bullying and harassment of children and young people in schools

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/SG_Response_to_EHRiC_Report_-_Its_not_cool_to_be_cruel_20170901.pdf

Antisemitism in contemporary Great Britain: A study of attitudes towards Jews and Israel

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/7/4/JPR.2017.Antisemitism%20in%20contemporary%20Great%20Britain.pdf>

The last acceptable form of racism?

<http://travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/TMreport1J-FINAL.pdf>

Holocaust Memorial Day resources

Theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2018: The Power of Words

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2018-power-words>

Activity Pack (for order or download)

<http://hmd.org.uk/content/order-or-download-activity-pack>

Testimonies of Holocaust and genocide survivors

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/life-stories>

Other educational resources

<http://hmd.org.uk/content/for-educators>

News

Racism affects third of ethnic minority staff, says TUC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-41243550>

1 in 3 British BAME workers have been bullied, abused or singled out for unfair treatment, finds TUC poll

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/1-3-british-bame-workers-have-been-bullied-abused-or-singled-out-unfair-treatment-finds-tuc>

Over a quarter of British people 'hold anti-Semitic attitudes', study finds

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41241353>

CST and JPR produce major new study of antisemitism in Great Britain

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2017/09/12/cst-and-jpr-produce-major-new-study-of-antisemitism-in-great-britain>

Third of Britons 'hold one antisemitic view', survey finds

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/third-of-britons-hold-one-antisemitic-view-survey-finds-c70ql5703>

Jewish charity condemns Icke's visit to Edinburgh

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/jewish-charity-condemns-ickes-visit-to-edinburgh>

Untouchables: Anish Kapoor backs Dalits discriminated against by British Hindus

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/untouchables-anish-kapoor-backs-dalits-discriminated-against-by-british-hindus-c92nsxx0l>

Neo-Nazi charges: UK soldiers appear in court

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41241153>

British Army faces questions after recruiting soldier who 'liked' Nazism on Facebook

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-army-nazi-soldier-scottish-facebook-like-questions-vetting-national-action-arrests-case-a7943566.html>

Europeans need not apply: evidence mounts of discrimination in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/11/no-europeans-need-apply-growing-evidence-discrimination-uk-brexit>

Politicians join anti-fascists in march to chase off SDL protest against Perth mosque

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/politicians-join-anti-fascists-march-11144569>

"Amazing numbers" line Perth's streets in counter-protest against far-right SDL

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/perth-kinross/505995/video-hundreds-line-perths-streets-counter-protest-far-right-sdl-articleisfree/>

SFA: Tory MP's Gypsy remark 'not discriminatory'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-41268485>

Police chief warns fans to expect force action over support for terror groups in row over football sectarianism laws

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15525235.Video_Police_chief_warns_fans_to_expect_force_action_over_support_for_terror_groups_in_row_over_football_sectarianism_laws

Yes Diane Abbott said the N-word on TV this morning. If you're complaining, you've got your priorities wrong

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/diane-abbott-n-word-pewdiepie-racism-a7946316.html>

Jewish leader tells 'Nazi dog' trial that training pooch to give sieg heil salute is 'grossly offensive'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/jewish-leader-tells-nazi-dog-11148574>

Boyfriend 'made Nazi salute dog look evil'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/boyfriend-made-nazi-salute-dog-look-evil-gmzx8gdq8>

Jewish leader's anger over pug taught to do Nazi salute

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-leader-s-anger-over-pug-taught-to-do-nazi-salute-gs356bpf8>

Jewish leader tells 'Nazi dog' trial he was 'stunned' by video of pet trained to give 'Sieg Heil' salute by Scots owner

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/1548585/nazi-dog-trial-he-was-stunned-by-video-of-pet-trained-to-give-sieg-heil-salute/>

Hate crime trial of YouTube user over video of dog 'taught to do Nazi salute'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/12/hate-crime-trial-youtube-user-video-dog-taught-do-nazi-salute/>

'Grossly offensive' pet owner who made video of pug doing Nazi salutes angers Jewish community

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/pug-nazi-salute-video-youtube-jewish-community-mark-meecham-buddha-gas-holocaust-sieg-heil-ephraim-a7943241.html>

Girlfriend tells partner's 'hate crime' trial he 'turned her cute pug Buddha into a "Nazi monster" by training it to salute videos of Hitler'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4880428/Girlfriend-tells-trial-partner-turned-pug-Nazi.html>

Pug being trained to give Nazi salutes is 'grossly offensive', leading Jewish figure tells 'hate crime' trial of man who filmed it

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4875356/Video-dog-giving-Nazi-salutes-grossly-offensive.html>

British Museum sorry for labelling row

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-41254560>

British Museum apologises after 'ask a curator' session sparks 'racism' row

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/13/british-museum-apologises-ask-curator-session-sparks-racism/>

Asian name labels confused visitors, says British Museum

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/asian-name-labels-confused-visitors-says-british-museum-vgvf22ssx>

We Travellers must take a stand against racism, for the sake of our children

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/13/travellers-racism-hate-speech-discrimination-irish>

Don't look for prejudice where it doesn't exist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-12/comment/dont-look-for-prejudice-where-it-doesnt-exist-g8dqz737w>

Lanarkshire racist fined for telling optician he'd 'rather be seen by a white person'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/lanarkshire-racist-fined-telling-optician-11173025>

Bigot who made racist remarks to Specsavers optician fined

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-15/scotland/bigot-who-made-racist-remarks-to-specsavers-optician-fined-00nd6mrpc>

Facebook 'sold adverts targeted at users interested in "how to burn Jews"'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/facebook-ads-jewish-antisemitic-haters-keywords-sells-target-users-a7947656.html>

Facebook allowed advertisers to target 'Jew haters'

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/sep/14/facebook-advertising-jew-hater-antisemitism>

Antisemites targeted by Facebook ads

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-15/world/antisemites-targeted-by-facebook-ads-hitler-mark-zuckerberg-tc80w7s7k>

Outrage at Facebook feature that let advertisers target 'Jew haters' or people interested in 'how to burn Jews'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4886062/Facebook-removes-feature-let-ads-reach-Jew-haters.html>

YouTube star PewDiePie makes racial slur

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-41222593>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Defending the Scottish Parliament

<https://news.gov.scot/news/defending-the-scottish-parliament>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation: Clinics

The following six questions all received the same answer

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9472] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on the number and location of clinics which are recommended for people who have undergone FGM.

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9473] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on the categories of clinic which have dealt with people who have undergone FGM.

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9474] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department has issued on joint working between GP practices and hospitals which run FGM clinics.

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9475] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information his Department holds on the location and date of planned opening of new clinics for dealing with FGM cases.

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9476] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department provides for women with FGM seeking care who live in areas where there is no dedicated FGM clinic.

Sarah Champion (Labour) [9478] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what information the Government holds on recent or ongoing research on FGM clinical provision; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: There are a number of specialist National Health Service clinics nationally that will treat women with Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The services offered by these clinics vary and provide a range of procedures including de-infibulation, counselling and other services specifically for girls and women affected by FGM. Most are run by specially trained doctors, nurses or midwives who understand FGM and are able to treat some of the medical problems caused by it.

With regards to guidance for women seeking care in areas with no dedicated FGM clinic, it is for clinical commissioning groups to commission appropriate local services for the health needs of their populations.

There is a range of research around the clinical provision for FGM, both nationally and internationally. The Department is aware of research, for example around both reconstructive surgery and de-infibulation. As these and other evidence bases develop, we will consider what outcomes the research might offer within the context of the NHS. Currently the focus of our FGM health work remains on prevention.

With regard to joint working between general practitioner (GP) practices and hospitals which run FGM clinics, these relationships should be the same as the relationships between any other GP and hospital FGM services whether in maternity, gynaecology or any other setting related to FGM or otherwise. The FGM Enhanced Dataset specification Standardisation Committee for Care

Information (SCCI) 2026 and other guidance materials, where appropriate, also contain information in relation to the data which should be exchanged between GPs and any clinic in relation to FGM.

The Department does not hold information on the locations or opening dates of clinics to deal with FGM. NHS England holds details about the number and location of specialist NHS FGM services nationally - currently there are 13 FGM clinics of which eight are located in London.

With regards to information on the categories of clinic, the FGM Enhanced Dataset supports the Department's FGM Prevention Programme by presenting a national picture of the prevalence of FGM in England. Data is collected by healthcare providers in England, including acute hospital providers, mental health providers and GP practices.

Treatment Function Code is collected within the Enhanced Dataset. This is recorded to report the specialised service within which the patient is treated.

The most recent, annual report from the FGM Enhanced Dataset was published on 4 July 2017. A copy is available at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30015>

It reported on attendances in the NHS between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. A known Treatment Function Code was recorded for only 59% of total attendances. The most common treatment functions associated with the identification and treatment of FGM in this period were within midwifery services, obstetrics, mental health recovery and rehabilitation services and gynaecology.

A full list of treatment function codes is available in the NHS Data Dictionary, which are available at the following link:

http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/data_dictionary/attributes/t/tran/treatment_function_code_de.asp?shownav=0

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9472/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9473/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9474/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9475/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9476/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-07/9478/>

Faith Schools: Islam

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Warner (Crossbench) [HL1358] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that madrassas constitute unregistered schools and are capable of placing children at risk under child protection legislation.

Lord Warner (Crossbench) [HL1359] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made with the regulation and inspection of madrassas since the announcement made by the then Prime Minister in October 2015; and what powers local authorities and Ofsted have to intervene in the operation of madrassas where there is evidence of child abuse.

Reply from Lord Nash: There is no definition of a madrassah in education law.

An independent institution is required to register as a school provides full-time education to five or more pupils of compulsory school age or one or more pupils with an education, health and care plan (or a statement of special educational need) or who is looked after (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989) and is not a school maintained by a local authority or a non-maintained special school. A madrassah will therefore only constitute an unregistered school if it is providing such education.

LAs have an overarching responsibility of local authorities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, regardless of where they are educated. It is for local authorities to assess whether the threshold for intervention is met in the case of an individual child taking account of the impact and influence of environmental factors. However, wherever local authorities have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, they are under a duty to investigate. Local authorities should make whatever enquiries necessary to decide what, if any, action to take to safeguard or promote the child's welfare. The police can of course investigate any reports that a crime has been committed in an out-of-school education setting.

The Government published a Counter Extremism Strategy in 2015, which set out plans to introduce a new system of oversight for out-of-school education settings – such as supplementary schools, tuition centres and madrassahs. To learn more about these settings, and the potential scope and impact of any regulatory system, the department issued a call for evidence. We will make an announcement about the outcome in due course.

We are supporting local authorities to use their existing powers, as described above, to tackle concerns about the safeguarding of children in unregulated education settings.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1358/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1359/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL1342] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all professionals and staff involved in the detection of female genital mutilation have received appropriate and in-depth training.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has no current plans to introduce annual medical examinations to identify female genital mutilation (FGM); we believe that prevention and support are where efforts are best focused. Medical examinations may take place in individual child protection cases, however.

Medical examinations in France and elsewhere take place within a different social and legal framework than in England and so are not comparable.

As part of the Department's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme, which is in partnership with NHS England, we have introduced a range of training and guidance for health professionals. This includes:

- Specialist FGM safeguarding guidance to help health professionals protect against FGM;
- Specialist guidance to help health professionals commission appropriate FGM services;
- Awareness-raising roadshows and outreach work across the country – this has directly reached over 3,500 professionals;

- Educational films about FGM and updated content on the NHS Choices website;
- Comprehensive e-learning on FGM, free of charge to all National Health Service staff (this was developed by Health Education England, with more than 4,000 staff having used this to date); and:
- Supported a number of projects with health partners including the Royal Colleges. These have delivered a range of practical measures to improve clinical skills, awareness and preparedness to treat and safeguard women and girls with FGM.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1342/>

Press Release

Armed Forces Muslim Personnel Complete Hajj

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/armed-forces-muslim-personnel-complete-hajj>

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New Publication

Guide to running a charity or social enterprise

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/images/uploads/articles/TFN-GUIDE-2017-DOWNLOADVersion2.pdf>

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Other News

Majority of Scots say they are 'not religious'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-41294688>

Police are 'determined' to bring country's first prosecution for female genital mutilation as they launch campaign to protect children coming from abroad

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4877470/FGM-campaign-aims-protect-children-coming-abroad.html>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-09-11/debates/B10868CD-F096-47A2-84EE-A902C8A271BE/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-09-11/debates/B10868CD-F096-47A2-84EE-A902C8A271BE/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Notices of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0005/amend/euwithdrawal_rm_cwh_0911.1-7.html

and

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0005/amend/euwithdrawal_rm_cwh_0912.1-7.html

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 September 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

**** closes this week!**

European Union's (EU) legislation on the legal migration of non-EU citizens (closing date 18 September 2017)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/consultation-european-unions-eu-legislation-legal-migration-non-eu-citizens-fitness-check-eu_en

Working across the lines: Enabling joint work for racial justice, migrants' rights and faith-based activism (closing date 27 September 2017)

http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Working_Across_Lines/?mc_cid=859c92dd24&mc_eid=ae74a1e475

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill (closing date 29 September 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105772.aspx>

Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020

(closing date 25 October 2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en

**** Regulations under Section 10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015** (closing date 30 October 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524841.pdf>

EEA-workers in the UK labour market (closing date 27 October 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-and-briefing-note-eea-workers-in-the-uk-labour-market>

Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation (Bracadale Review)

(closing date 23 November 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/independent-review-of-hate-crime-legislation>

There are three versions of the consultation paper:

- a full version, aimed mainly at a technical, legal audience
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524055.pdf>
- a non-technical version, aimed at the general reader with no specialist legal knowledge
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524070.pdf>
- an easy read version using simple language and pictures
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524076.pdf>

Fundraising guidance consultation (closing date 1 December 2017)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/fundraising-guidance-consultation>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/2018

No set closing date – applications will be accepted until the fund has been fully allocated

BEMIS Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Government is once again offering a small grants programme which invites multicultural communities across Scotland to join in with Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/18 and host events for St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night.

Community groups, unincorporated associations, charities, and not for profit organisations working in, with, or for Scotland's diverse communities, can apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000 to put on events that engage, inspire, and mobilise communities across Scotland in the celebration of Scotland's national days.

For more information see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-guidelines.pdf>

For an application form see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

20 September 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

2 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations.

For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) events on EEA and international migrant workers

20 September 2017 in Edinburgh

The MAC will attend regional events around the UK to meet and take evidence from stakeholders on EEA and international migrant workers. For information contact

MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk / 020 7035 1764 or see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-mac-events-on-eea-and-international-migrant-workers>

**** this week!**

Close the Gap

20 September 2017 in Glasgow (6.00-8.30)

Close the Gap focus group for BME women to discuss barriers they have experienced in entering or progressing in the workplace, and what they think needs to be done to realise equality for BME women at work. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9xa4x4k>

**** this week!**

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

22 September 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

20 October 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

17 November 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

15 December 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

12 January 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

Creative writing workshops organised by the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration Through Language and Art at Glasgow University. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y77alnxb> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

Big Lottery funding surgery

27 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

BEMIS funding surgeries in partnership with the Big Lottery, to develop potential projects and help secure funding. For information contact events@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Common Cause Workshop**

27 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Workshop to discuss how academics talk to Black and minority-ethnic artists, how BME-led arts, cultural and heritage organisations can make more mutually productive collaborations with Universities. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8yff89n> or contact H.Payne@liverpool.ac.uk

Equality Workshop

27 September 2017 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to improve understanding of the Equality Act 2010, and how it applies to you and your organisation. For information contact Elric Elric@centreforequalities.org.uk /01592 645 310.

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

28 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

30 November 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

Black History Month

October 2017

Black History Month provides an opportunity to learn, understand, and honour the role that black and minority ethnic men, women, and children have played in shaping Scotland's history. The full programme of events is available at <http://tinyurl.com/y8ua5xk6>

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

3 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

23 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

5 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

29 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scotland's Muslims: Society, Politics and Identity**

17 October 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00pm)

Launch of a new collection of essays about Scotland's Muslim which includes chapters on issues as diverse as health, education, gender, sexuality, politics, integration, family, the media, political participation, multicultural nationalism, citizenship, and integration strategies. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y948eudy>

Festival of Politics

19-21 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/>

Festival of Politics: Black History Month 2017

19 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00-7.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss Scotland's role and the legacy of slavery and colonialism in the acknowledgement of an uncomfortable history. For information see <http://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/black-history-month-2017/>

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Workshop

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide practical help and advice on how to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity. Includes information about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides, as well as challenges, such as hate crime, facing the UK today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ydegrweb> or contact Rhys Prosser enquiries@hmd.org.uk

Refugee Rights to Housing

9 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvp15r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Interfaith Week

12-19 November 2017

This year's theme is Creativity and the Arts; through art, poetry, music, and dance we can break down barriers and celebrate the creative and cultural diversity within our local communities. For information contact info@scottishinterfaithweek.org or see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/about-sifw>. For resources to help you plan your event see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/resources>, and to have your event listed in the Interfaith Week programme see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/submit-an-event>.

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

15 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** The New Scots – Immigrant Communities since c1950**

30 November 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.00)

St Andrew's Day lecture presented by Professor Tom Devine as part of the BEMIS 'Scotland's Diverse History' Series. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yaadfnc2>

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tq2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

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

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

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

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

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

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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. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <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://www.gov.scot/>

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