

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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Useful Links

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

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 23 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-08285 Angus MacDonald (SNP): Captain Jamie Wilson Awarded Individual Commendation for Rescue of Refugees – That the Parliament commends Captain Jamie Wilson, from Maddiston near Falkirk, and his crew aboard the DeepOcean vessel, Deep Vision, on their efforts to rescue refugees in the Mediterranean sea near Libya; understands that the crew rescued over 900 refugees over the course of four days, which involved nine separate rescue missions; recognises Capt Wilson has been awarded an Individual Commendation by the Shipwrecked Mariners Society for providing essential support to emergency services and responding promptly and professionally to distress messages; further recognises that Capt Wilson has also been honoured with a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritous Service, for services to the rescue of refugees in peril; considers what it sees as a humanitarian crisis resulting in hundreds of thousands of people being displaced from their own countries through no fault of their own; calls on the Scottish Government to continue to provide what it sees as a leading hand in the UK in

the support of refugees who have been displaced through war and other atrocities; further congratulates Capt Wilson and his crew for their efforts, and wishes all involved in rescue missions across the world success and safe passage.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08285>

S5M-08325 Lewis Macdonald (Labour) Polish Bilingual Day – That the Parliament notes that Polish Bilingual Day is celebrated on the weekend of 21-22 October 2017, which aims to highlight the importance of bilingualism among Polish families around the world; welcomes that Polish organisations in Scotland organise meetings, trips and activities for young people and families of Polish ancestry; considers that knowledge of the Polish language offers new opportunities and helps to promote knowledge and understanding of Polish culture, traditions and history, thereby strengthening social cohesion and integration, and wishes the Polish communities in Scotland a successful weekend of celebrating and promoting bilingualism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08325>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

UK Visas and Immigration

Daniel Zeichner (Labour): What recent assessment her Department has made of the performance of UK Visas and Immigration. [901152]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): The Home Office deals with millions of visa, citizenship, passport and immigration status applications each year. In the past year, UKVI has received more than 3.5 million applications, and more than 98.5% of major application routes, including for non-settlement, EU applications and asylum, have all been decided within their service standards. Some 99% of straightforward non-settlement applications were processed within 15 days last year.

Daniel Zeichner: I have a number of constituents who have family members who have applied for visas, submitted their passports and then endured very long delays—in some cases of many months—without their passports, so in effect they are trapped, unable to travel. What is UKVI going to do about those cases?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Reviewing identity documents such as passports as part of an application is obviously an important part of maintaining a robust immigration system. Travel documents are retained for the duration of the decision-making process, but if the applicant wishes to travel while the application is being considered, dependent on the route through which they have applied, we will of course return their passport to them. If the applicant needs a passport for ID purposes, we can send certified copies that they are able to use.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/5E5EEF57-7B62-4607-BEFE-6B16C1D80D18/UKVisasAndImmigration>

Residency Rights (EU Nationals)

Hannah Bardell (SNP): What her policy is on the residency rights of EU nationals (a) during any transitional phase and (b) after the UK leaves the EU. [901137]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): The Prime Minister was clear in her Florence speech in September that people will continue to be able to come to, and live and work in, the UK. There will be a registration system—an essential preparation for the new immigration system required to retake control of our borders—and we will be setting out initial proposals for the implementation period in due course, and for our new immigration system later in the year.

Hannah Bardell: I have encountered numerous cases where documents supplied to the Home Office by EU nationals have been misplaced or permanently lost. Does the Minister think it is fair or reasonable to expect people to endure the financial cost of replacing these documents for the Home Office? What assurances can he give that this issue will be addressed, especially given the chaos that is about to ensue as we leave the EU?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are clear that we want to work with our partners in Europe to have a smooth and good system for EU citizens here to go through as they gain settled status as part of the fair and very serious proposal we made, and I am confident that we will be able to deliver that in a simple and clean system for them. Obviously, if the hon. Lady has particular cases that she feels we need to look at, I encourage her to write to me and I will happily look at them. ...

Edward Leigh: There has been a lot of reportage and worry in this country about the number of EU nationals coming here perfectly legally. I am much more worried about what the Home Affairs Committee was told last week by David Wood, former head of immigration: there are 1 million illegals here, which the Home Office knows nothing about. Will the Minister's Department focus on fast-tracking our friends and relations who are here legally from the EU so it can concentrate on the illegals?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are very much focused on dealing with people who are here illegally; that is what the compliant environment work is all about. Obviously our friends and partners and citizens from the EU are, under free movement, here entirely legally. I encourage them to remain, as we value what they do for our society and economy, and we will remain focused on dealing with the illegal immigrants, who should be in their home countries.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): The Scottish Government have said that they will meet the fee for settled status applications of EU citizens working in the public sector in Scotland, in order to keep vital workers in the NHS and other public services and to make it clear that we want them to stay because we welcome them. Will the United Kingdom Government match that promise—or, better still, waive the fee entirely?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I appreciate the comment that the hon. and learned Lady has made, and will certainly feed that through. Obviously, we are in negotiations at the moment; when they end, we will know exactly what the system will be.

Joanna Cherry: Scotland does not want to lose the benefit of freedom of movement. Yesterday the Unison trade union said that immigration must be devolved to Scotland after Brexit or else there would be a population crisis. In saying that, Unison is joining with business in Scotland, including the Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Directors, who have said that they want a separate deal for immigration in Scotland. With this wide support from civic society for the devolution of at least some immigration to Scotland, what will it take for the Minister's Department to give these calls the serious consideration that they deserve?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We have commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee, who are going to be looking at the impact of European workers on our economies. We are clear that we value their input both in society to our communities and to our economy. We want EU citizens to stay and will be encouraging them to do so, as the Prime Minister and Home Secretary have done on numerous occasions.

Diane Abbot (Labour): The Minister will be aware that we cannot move on to trade talks with EU negotiators until we have resolved the questions of the Irish border, the financial settlement and EU citizens' rights. When will Ministers accept that the Government's current proposals on EU citizens' rights post-Brexit fall short because, among other things, EU citizens will not have the same right to bring in family members that they currently enjoy?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Negotiations are progressing well. We are clear that, as our offer outlines, when we leave the European Union we will ensure that

European citizens in this country have the same rights as British citizens. I am just disappointed that the right hon. Lady is not as focused on the rights of British citizens, both here and abroad.

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/78DA1E96-7833-47A1-9107-BF901B8C9752/ResidencyRights\(EUNationals\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/78DA1E96-7833-47A1-9107-BF901B8C9752/ResidencyRights(EUNationals))

International Students

Chris Law (SNP): What her policy is on the number of international students who are admitted to the UK. [901143]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): The Government are working hard to continue to attract international students to study here in the UK. There is no limit on the number of genuine international students that educational institutions in the UK can recruit; nor do we intend to change that position.

Chris Law: I have the honour of representing in my constituency two universities, Abertay University and University of Dundee, with a large intake of international students. Does the Minister agree that the Government's confused approach to international students, based on information, will damage Scotland's reputation as a world-leading destination for study?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The short answer is no. The hon. Gentleman might be a bit confused, because we have been clear all the way through that we want good, genuine international students here at good, genuine institutions. The Government should take great credit for shutting down bogus colleges, so that when students come here they know that they are going to a good, strong institution. They play an important part in our economy, and we encourage that to continue.

Kevin Brennan (Labour): When international students come to the UK, what fees are they charged, and does the Department make a profit? The charge in a case of indefinite leave to remain is £2,297, but the cost to the Home Office is just £252. What kind of a racket is being run at the Home Office? [901160]

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am happy to remind the hon. Gentleman that we set immigration and nationality fees at a level that ensures that the income received contributes towards the resources that are necessary for the wider border, immigration and nationality system, and in line with the charging powers approved by Parliament that are set out in the Immigration Act 2014, which he may have forgotten.

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat): What response have the Government given to the Government of India, who have made it clear that any post-Brexit trade deal is conditional on greatly expanding the number of student and other visas?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Obviously, as I said in answer to the first question from the hon. Member for Dundee West (Chris Law), we continue to encourage international students to come here. It is good to see that universities in this country saw a 5% rise last year. That is good for the economy, good for universities and good for our society.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Minister knows that international students are different from other types of migrants. They are temporary; they make a vital economic and cultural contribution to our universities; they contribute billions of pounds to our economy; and public opinion correctly does not think of students as immigrants. When will Ministers listen to voices from all parts of the House and remove international students from the immigration total?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I say gently to the right hon. Lady that the definition of net migration, which is decided by the UN, refers to people who have been in the country for 12 months or more, which university students obviously have if they are here for three years and using services here. Ultimately, though, the numbers are decided by the Office for National Statistics, which is an entirely

independent organisation, and not by the Government.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/2DBF5848-FB10-43DF-90E8-587C7A8BE788/InternationalStudents>

Study Visas

Jo Stevens (Labour): What proportion of international students in the UK have been found to have overstayed their study visa. [901148]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): Exit check analysis shows that 97% of students whose visas expired in 2016-17 were recorded as having left in time. That is good evidence that our reforms, from 2010 onwards, to tackle abuse in the education sector have worked.

Jo Stevens: If or, as seems likely, when Britain crashes out of the EU with no deal, what will happen to international students here on the Erasmus+ programme, many of whom are in my constituency of Cardiff Central, at the point of exit?

don Lewis: As I said earlier, there is no limit on the number of students. I am not going to predict the outcome post our negotiations but, as I have said to other colleagues, we are working to get a good deal for the United Kingdom and our partners in Europe.

Afzal Khan (Labour): Applications for international students and other immigration applications cost hundreds of pounds, and errors are common. When the Home Office makes such errors, it puts constituents and citizens in unnecessary distress, but there are no consequences for the Department getting critical decisions wrong time and again. Will the Minister explain where the profits from visa and other visa-related applications are going and how much of the fees received pay for these services? What will he do to improve such a terrible service? ...

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I will do my best to rise to the challenge, Mr Speaker. As I said earlier, the immigration system's visas and charges are as per the Immigration Act 2014. I would challenge the hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Afzal Khan) a little bit because no one has come to me about mistakes regarding how we deal with student visas. We are encouraging students from all over the world to come here.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/04CE8E46-0D7C-4F98-9F88-7A7162D97D52/StudyVisas>

Refugee Family Reunions

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat): Whether her Department is taking steps to broaden the criteria under which refugee family reunions are permitted. [901138]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): The family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection in the UK to reunite with them here. In addition, the family provisions in the immigration rules also provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children when there are serious and compelling circumstances. Our policy is clear: where an application fails under the rules, we consider whether there are exceptional reasons to grant leave outside the rules.

Layla Moran: As the Minister will be aware, a lone child refugee is currently unable to sponsor even their parents or siblings to join them in safety here. UNICEF and the Refugee Council have both said that the rules are too restrictive, and the Home Affairs Committee has called the situation "perverse". Will the Government therefore support the Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill, introduced in the other place by my colleague Baroness Hamwee, and allow these vulnerable children a chance to have the loving upbringing that every child surely deserves?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are working with the UNHCR and with UNICEF on this issue, and we want to ensure that the application of these rules and this policy works in practice. I ask the hon. Lady to look again at the rules that I have outlined, because we can consider whether there are exceptional reasons to grant

leave outside the rules.

Yvette Cooper (Labour): The Minister will know that it is around 12 months since the Calais jungle was cleared, and Britain did its bit through the Dublin and the Dubs schemes to take some unaccompanied child and teenage refugees. Will he confirm, however, that since then no further child or teenage refugees have come to this country under the Dubs scheme and, in particular, that there have been none from Italy or Greece? Will he accept that the Home Office has designed the scheme in a way that is too restrictive and that makes it too difficult for Italy and Greece to send children here, despite the fact that there are still 280 pledged local authority places that remain unfilled? Will he now agree to revise the scheme to ensure that those 280 places can be filled before Christmas?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are working with other countries, which have their own national sovereignty. I was in Italy and Greece over the summer to talk about these programmes, and we are working with the Greek and French authorities to ensure that more children can come over and that we fulfil our duty. Let us bear in mind that when we get to the 480, the United Kingdom will have done more than other European countries, and we should be proud of that.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative): Will the Minister also look at the distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children? About a quarter of the total are in Kent, but you won't find many in the metropolitan borough of Wakefield.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend makes a good point. His county council in Kent is doing some fantastic work, and there are councils around the country making offers to do similar work. It would be good to see more councils coming forward to do that work, and I will be speaking to the Local Government Association this week about that very issue.

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP): My private Member's Bill, the Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill, will have its Second Reading on 16 March. It is important for families to be united, especially when they need to travel together. I have a 14-year-old constituent who was born and raised in the Hebrides. Unfortunately, her father has died and her mother has not been seen for about 12 years, as I am sure the Home Office knows. Crucially, the mother's birth certificate cannot be found. The upshot is that the UK Government refuse to give my constituent a passport. She needs a status letter, please. It is beyond any doubt that this girl is a Hebridean Scot. In the words of the Home Office, "On the balance of probabilities, the girl is a British national".

Will the Home Office now give my constituent and her grandparents that status letter, so that she can get her passport? Anything less would create tremendous difficulties, as I am sure the Minister knows.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am aware of that case and saw the hon. Gentleman's social media output over the weekend, so I will write to him with some details. When we issue passports, we have to ensure that we go through all the proper checks to make sure that we are doing things correctly. I make no excuses for that—it is obviously a matter of national security. However, I am looking into the case and will get back to him in the next couple of days.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-16/debates/79D40FC7-BDF8-4FA9-B692-E16A1CB08D6F/RefugeeFamilyReunions>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services

John Spellar (Labour) [107358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons hon. Members' telephone access to UK Visas and Immigration has been reduced.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UKVI MP Account Management teams offered a reduced phone service from 11am -1.30pm and 2.00– 4pm since the beginning

of summer recess to enable them to respond to an unprecedented increase in written enquiries from Members of Parliament. Hon. Members continue to be able to contact their MP Account Managers direct to raise urgent enquiries outside of these operating times.

Reducing the operational hours of the service has helped ensure that the teams continue to deliver a balanced level of service both on the phones and in writing. Records show that the teams are handling similar call volumes in the reduced operating hours.

From 10 October the phone service hours were increased to 11am to 4pm and they will continue to be reviewed weekly with a view to returning to the full service hours of 9am – 5pm.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107358/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Correspondence

Afzal Khan (Labour) [106758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of correspondence to UK Visas and Immigration was responded to within (a) 10 days, (b) 20 days, (c) 30 days and (d) in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of that correspondence received a response.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on the number of correspondence to the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), which was responded to within 20 days is published quarterly as part of UKVI transparency data.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/customer-service-operations-data-august-2017>

UKVI does not publish data in the 10 day and 30 day format requested.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106758/>

Immigration: Biometrics

Hilary Benn (Labour) [106740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what average time it took to (a) issue a replacement biometric card and (b) determine an indefinite leave to remain application in each of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UK Visas and Immigration have different service standards for all Biometric Replacement Cards, these are dependent upon the immigration leave that an individual may have.

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/2017-10-09/106740/>

Immigration: Biometrics

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Linden (SNP) [107252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 October 2017 to Question 10463, if she will make an assessment of the (a) effectiveness of procedures and (b) adequacy of the time taken to process applications for no time limit and biometric immigration documentation by people who already have indefinite leave to remain.

David Linden (SNP) [107253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 October 2017 to Question 10463, on immigration: biometrics, what mechanisms are in place to measure effectiveness of the continuous improvement processes employed by her Department.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: a) As the previous answer, 10463, highlighted, UK

Visas and Immigration are committed to the principles of continuous improvement in all areas and to applying these to ensure processes are efficient and effective.

b) Published service standards for all No Time Limit, and Biometric Residence Permit replacement, 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.

Since 2012 UK Visas and Immigration have undertaken numerous improvements to streamline the process and improve customer service. This included introducing biometrics to Non-EEA national applications and applications for British Citizenship. We have introduced email prompts to customers and improved the wording on correspondence letters and the UK Visas and Immigration website to ensure customers are aware of the application process and solutions to common issues.

We have measured this through monitoring the time taken for applicants to enrol their biometrics and from customer feedback when resolving issues. Moving to digital applications, UK Visas and Immigration are looking at continuous improvement once again to improve efficiency in collecting applicants biometric data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107252/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107253/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-13/10463/>

Immigration: Children and Young People

Carolyn Harris (Labour) [106080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether children and young people resident in the UK are able to apply for settled status in their own right.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), sets out that EU citizens, including children and young people, who arrive in the UK before the specified date and have five years' continuous residence, will be able to apply for UK settled status. EU citizens who arrive before the specified date, but do not yet have five years' continuous residence, will be able to make an application to stay until they have built up the necessary five continuous years' residence to be able to apply for UK settled status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106080/>

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) [105483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish a timeline for the registration process for non-UK EU citizens applying to remain in the UK following March 2019.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: All qualifying EU citizens and their family members will be given adequate time to apply for the new settled status. The Government intends to introduce a voluntary scheme to enable eligible EU citizens and their family members to apply for this status before the UK leaves the EU, if they wish

to do so.

For those who do not wish to apply before the UK leaves the EU, a grace period of blanket permission will last from EU exit day for a fixed period of time, which we will specify in due course, but which we expect to be up to two years.

We will publish further details regarding the timetable in due course but we intend to launch the scheme in 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105483/>

Overseas Students: Visas

Keith Vaz (Labour) [107580] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Test of English for International Communication students have had their visa cancelled in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions in response to the abuse of secure English language testing.

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

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

The table in SELT_02 is the closest match to the information requested.

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107580/>

Immigration: Appeals

Barry Sheerman (Labour): [105718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department collects on people whose appeal rights have been exhausted and then become missing.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office will hold relevant immigration history and biographical details on individuals with whom the department has had contact, either through an enforcement encounter, asylum claim, visa or immigration application. Should an individual become Appeal Rights Exhausted every effort is made to effect a return to their country of origin. If an individual absconds or goes missing, the Home Office will work with other agencies to locate the individual as quickly as possible. Through the Immigration Act 2016, we have made it more difficult for people to remain in the UK illegally by incentivising voluntary returns, introducing tougher penalties for illegal working and restricting illegal migrants' access to services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105718/>

Immigration

The following three questions both received the same answer

David Lammy (Labour) [106764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigrants with dependents had the no recourse to public funds condition applied to their leave to remain in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

David Lammy (Labour) [107086] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people subject to immigration control with dependents had the no recourse to public funds condition lifted in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

David Lammy (Labour) [107101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people subject to immigration control with dependents applied to have the no recourse to public funds condition on their leave to remain lifted in (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The published statistics on grants and refusals of

extensions of leave by category can be found in table ex_01_q in the Immigration Statistics release.

The latest release Immigration Statistics covering 2015-16 and 2016-17, is available for download at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

with the extensions tables at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638594/extensions-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106764/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107086/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107101/>

Immigration

Jon Trickett (Labour) [105507] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain on the basis of family and private life have been awaiting a decision for longer than (a) one year, (b) two years and (c) three years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on UK Visas and Immigration temporary and permanent migration activities including In-Country Work In Progress Casework, and Percentage of Temporary and Permanent Migration in-country visa applications for each Route, processed within Service Standards, is published on the .GOV.UK website. In this instance the data provided on worksheet InC_05 gives an overall picture across Temporary and Permanent Migration and is not determined by Route.

The latest edition is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105507/>

Immigration

The following three questions both received the same answer

Jon Trickett (Labour) [106479] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) complex and (b) non-complex applications for leave to remain on the basis of family and private life have been assessed in each year since 2014.

Jon Trickett (Labour) [105508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain on the basis of family and private life were received in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016.

Jon Trickett (Labour) [106345] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many leave to remain applications on the basis of family and private life were received in each year since 2014.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on UK Visas and Immigration temporary and permanent migration activities including In-Country Work In Progress Casework, and Percentage of Temporary and Permanent Migration in-country visa applications for each Route, processed within Service Standards, is published on the .GOV.UK website. The relevant Routes are 'Spouse/Partner' and 'HR/Complex Case' as indicated on worksheet InC_01 and InC_01a.

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

The relevant tables are also attached to this answer.

[2014 figures](#) (Excel SpreadSheet, 29.66 KB)

[2015 figures](#) (Excel SpreadSheet, 38.02 KB)

[2016 figures](#) (Excel SpreadSheet, 40.81 KB)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106479/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105508/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106345/>

Immigration

Jon Trickett (Labour) [106480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's processes are for the assessment of (a) complex and (b) non-complex applications for leave to remain on the basis of family and private life.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The published statistics on grants and refusals of extensions of leave by category can be found in table ex_01_q in the Immigration Statistics release.

The latest release Immigration Statistics covering 2015-16 and 2016-17, is available for download at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

with the extensions tables at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638594/extensions-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106480/>

Visas

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [107091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to resolve the delays in processing settlement visa applications; and whether those delays are caused by staff shortages.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Settlement applications may be made overseas and in the UK. The percentage of straightforward out of country settlement visa applications which were completed within Service Standard was 96.5% in the first quarter of 2017 (against a target of 98.5%).

Whilst some cases have fallen outside the standard processing timescales, there are currently plans and resourcing in place to resolve outstanding cases and we expect that there will be a sustained improvement from this point onwards.

The Home Office endeavours to resolve all applications as promptly as possible, however it is also vital that the correct decisions are made, particularly with complex cases that require detailed consideration and verification of evidence. If an application is not straightforward and expected to take longer than the standard processing time, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next.

The published information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107091/>

Visas

Keith Vaz (Labour) [106331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is for a visa to be issued for a visitor to the UK from a non-EU country in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address: <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/2017-10-06/106331/>

Visas

Afzal Khan (Labour) [106759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has targets or standards for processing times for non-straightforward visa applications.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Where it is likely to be necessary to make further enquiries where UKVI has no control over the time it may take, such as enquiries to external organisations or waiting for the applicant to submit additional information, or where the necessary enquiries will take longer than the published service standard UKVI will defer an application as 'complex'. Where an application has been classified as complex and cannot be concluded within published services standards, we will write to the customer to inform them that it will not be decided within the service standard.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106759/>

Visas

Afzal Khan (Labour) [106760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the criteria are for a non-straightforward immigration application for each type of visa.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Visa applications are considered to be complex where additional information is required and the timeline for producing this is outside of the control of the department.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106760/>

Visas: Married People

Afzal Khan (Labour) [108209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward spousal visa applications in each quarter of each of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The published information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108209/>

Visas

The following three questions all received the same answer

Catherine West (Labour) [106134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what checks are conducted on those who apply for a UK Tier 1 investor visa.

Catherine West (Labour) [106135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the operation of the UK Tier 1 investor visa scheme.

Visas: Cyprus

Catherine West (Labour) [106136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with her Cypriot counterpart in the Government about its golden visa schemes.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Tier 1 (Investor) route is for non-EEA nationals seeking to invest at least £2 million in the UK economy.

We require all Tier 1 (Investor) applicants to have opened an account with a Financial Conduct Authority-regulated bank for the purposes of making their qualified investment. If an investor is applying to enter the UK, then they must provide proof of overseas criminal record checks. Investor visas may be refused where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the applicant is not in control of their funds; the funds were obtained unlawfully; or the character, conduct and associations of a third party providing the funds mean granting the application is not conducive to public good.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee reviewed the Tier 1 (Investor) route in 2014. Following that review, we made a number of changes to the route, to ensure that the UK remains an attractive destination for genuine investors and that those who choose to come here contribute to our economy. We keep all immigration routes under review and do not rule out making further changes if required.

The Home Secretary has not held discussions with the Cyprus Government about its investor visa scheme. The terms of that scheme are a matter for Cyprus. Until we have left the EU the UK remains bound by free movement rules, however, and we would object if another Member State made changes that could lead to abuse of free movement rights in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106134/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106135/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106136/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Anna Soubry (Conservative) [107045] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of priority applications for Tier 2 visas were not processed before the 60 day limit in each of the last three years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Statistics relating to the processing of entry clearance visas (out of country) and in-country casework, against service standards are published as part of the Home Office's Migration Transparency data.

The latest editions of which are available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2017> and

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-10/107045/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward Tier 2 visa applications in each quarter of the last five years.

Visas

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward Tier 1 visa applications in each quarter of the last five years.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward settlement visa applications in each quarter of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The published information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107408/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107409/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107410/>

Visas: South Asia

Hilary Benn (Labour) [106813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for visitor visas have been granted in (a) India and (b) Pakistan in each of the last five years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Entry clearance visa applications and resolution: Pakistani Visitor visas (including dependants)

	Applications	Resolved	<i>Of which</i>			
Calendar Year			Granted	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed
2012	85,500	87,172	54,768	32,115	244	45
2013	85,749	88,901	61,578	27,102	213	8
2014	87,541	89,709	57,117	32,332	228	32
2015	90,060	90,305	44,976	45,126	185	18
2016	83,572	83,295	41,095	42,067	133	0

Immigration Statistics April-June 2017, visas volume 1 table vi_01_q and corresponding datasets.

Data on visa grants, refusals, withdrawn or lapsed cases may relate to applications made in an earlier period.

Entry clearance visa applications and resolution: Indian Visitor visas (including dependants)

	Applications	Resolved	<i>Of which</i>			
Calendar Year			Granted	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed
2012	335,850	335,261	298,884	35,437	819	121
2013	352,740	354,262	316,911	36,510	802	39
2014	352,880	354,184	319,804	33,647	697	36
2015	411,182	411,526	367,211	43,660	615	40
2016	450,797	450,401	390,036	59,843	493	29

Immigration Statistics April-June 2017, visas volume 1 table vi_01_q and corresponding datasets.

Data on visa grants, refusals, withdrawn or lapsed cases may relate to applications made in an earlier period.

Statistics on entry clearance visas are published in 'Immigration Statistics', available from the Home Office website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106813/>

Visas: Malawi

David Linden (SNP) [107259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 October 2017 to Question 105263, how many applications were made by Malawian nationals for visit visas (a) took longer to process than and (b) were processed within the standard processing timescale in the last year for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

The data on visa processing times that is published can be found online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107259/>

Jews: Yemen

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [106269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assistance the Government is providing to Jewish people seeking to leave Yemen.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There are safe and legal routes for people to come to the UK should they wish to join family members here, work or study. They would need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they were applying to qualify for a visa. Details about the criteria and how to apply are available on the GOV.UK website at: <http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>. However, there is no provision in the Immigration Rules for people to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum. Those who need international protection should claim in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Those who have left Yemen and been recognised as refugees by UNHCR may be eligible for resettlement under one of our discretionary resettlement schemes: Gateway, Mandate or the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme which resettles at-risk children and their families living in Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan or Lebanon.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106269/>

Refugees

Barry Sheerman (Labour) [107094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to increase the number of resettlement places offered by the Government to at least 10,000 places per year for people fleeing war and persecution; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UK has already committed to resettling 23,000 of the most vulnerable refugees from the Middle East and North Africa region by the year 2020 through our Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children's resettlement schemes, and we have no plans to increase this at the present time. This is in addition to those we resettle through our Gateway and Mandate schemes and the thousands who receive protection in the UK under normal asylum procedures.

Our priorities are humanitarian aid and actively seeking an end to the conflict in Syria. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries.

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [105472] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is from point of application to completion for an unaccompanied minor under the Dublin III treaty.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [105617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications from unaccompanied children her Department is considering under the Dublin III Regulation.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application

The Government has committed to publishing regular updates on the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children transferred to the UK from Europe, including those transferred under the Dublin III Regulation. This data will be published in the coming months.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, the UK has two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim. Within this two month period, the Home Office will undertake a number of mandatory checks, including security and a local authority assessment. Where possible, the Home Office will decide cases ahead of the two month deadline.

Once a Dublin request has been accepted, the Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer. The Home Office works closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six month timeframe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105472/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105617/>

Refugees: Children

Thelma Walker (Labour) [106207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) children and (b) unaccompanied children the Government estimates will be resettled under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme during the course of the 2017 Parliament.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme will resettle up to 3,000 at-risk children and their families by 2020, but it is not possible to say what proportion of these will be children.

We continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify appropriate cases, prioritising the most vulnerable. The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation in the UK. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106207/>

Refugees: Children

Barry Sheerman (Labour) [106316] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied minors have arrived in the UK under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme; how many of those minors went into foster care; and how many have been sponsored or hosted by communities.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Our prime concern is the safety and protection of unaccompanied minors resettled in the UK as they arrive in this country. We want to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration, as they rebuild their lives in safe and secure surroundings, among supportive communities in the UK. We will not, therefore, be providing a running commentary on numbers of unaccompanied children resettled through the scheme. Progress on resettlement under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 24 August, showed that 280 vulnerable people have been resettled since the scheme began in 2016. The statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106316/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Luke Pollard (Labour) [107528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that family reunion provisions for unaccompanied children are not restricted in the event that the UK ceases to be bound by the Dublin III regulation.

Luke Pollard (Labour) [107529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applications by unaccompanied children for family reunion in the UK under the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation that had not been completed by the time the UK leaves the EU will be completed.

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; we have granted over 24,000 family reunion visas over the last five years. Further, children recognised by UNHCR as refugees can join close family members here in the UK through our Mandate resettlement scheme.

Unaccompanied children cannot make applications for family reunification under the Dublin Regulation. The Dublin Regulation is a mechanism to determine the Member State responsible for the consideration of an asylum claim; it is not, and never has been, a family reunification route in itself. The Immigration Rules provide for family reunion and allow extended family members to sponsor children where there are serious and compelling circumstances. The Immigration Rules are entirely separate from the Dublin Regulation, and will remain in force when the UK leaves the European Union.

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/2017-10-12/107528/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107529/>

Refugees: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [107559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on which the principal pull factors

are for unaccompanied children choosing to come to the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's clear strategy has always been that we do not want to encourage people traffickers and incentivise perilous journeys to Europe, particularly by the most vulnerable children.

Our policy is to support families to stay together and we have granted over 24,000 family reunion visas over the last five years. We are clear, from discussions with other Member States, that any schemes to transfer unaccompanied should not act as a draw. The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme is a bespoke scheme to resettle 3,000 vulnerable children together with their families directly from the Middle East and North Africa region.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107559/>

Refugees: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [108251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of closing the refugee camp in Calais on the availability of data on unaccompanied child refugees; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The primary responsibility for unaccompanied children in France lies with the French government. Following the closure of the Calais Camp, French authorities transferred all children formerly resident to specialist centres across France. It is vital that children claim asylum in France; that is the fastest route to safety.

We have a strong track record of cooperating with France to manage the situation in Calais and to protect our shared border. We supported the humanitarian operation to clear the Calais migrant camp in October 2016, which involved the transfer of more than 750 children to the UK and funding to help provide migrants in Calais – including children – with suitable facilities elsewhere in France. Our law enforcement agencies work closely together to tackle smuggling and trafficking. Home Office officials meet with their French colleagues on a regular basis.

According to Eurostat data, 63,300 unaccompanied children claimed asylum in the EU in 2016:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8016696/3-11052017-AP-EN.pdf/30ca2206-0db9-4076-a681-e069a4bc5290>

This includes a breakdown of asylum applications by EU Member State.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108251/>

Refugees: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [108253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied migrant children in the UK have been moved to at least two different local authorities since their arrival.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office does not currently publish data on unaccompanied migrant children's movements between local authorities in its quarterly statistics release.

The published data on unaccompanied asylum seeking children can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to#unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children>.

There are over 4,000 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) in local authority care in the UK. The National Transfer Scheme was launched on 1 July 2016 and has been working to ensure a fairer allocation of UASC across the UK. A significant number of local authorities have participated in the scheme and

enabled the transfer of children away from local authorities with a disproportionate number of UASC in their care.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108253/>

Asylum

Jon Trickett (Labour) [105526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 September 2017 to Question 7032, how many and what proportion of asylum seekers do not access the support referred to while their cases are considered.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes a range of figures on the number of people applying for asylum and asylum support in both the quarterly migration statistics and quarterly transparency data full details of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017>

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

This data shows that in Q2 2017 the Home Office received 6172 applications for asylum and separately 3784 applications for Section 95 support were received. Asylum seekers can apply for a support at any point prior to final determination of their application for asylum and therefore details on the proportion of asylum seekers who do not apply for any form of support could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105526/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum

Jo Stevens (Labour) [105758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will place in the Library data on the average waiting times for case resolution for asylum seekers in cases involving torture for each year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Data on the timeliness of asylum decisions can be found at the following link: www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2017

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105758/>

Asylum

Hilary Benn (Labour) [106741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers currently in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Details of total numbers of cases who have had asylum claims refused, have no basis to remain having exhausted all appeal rights and are subject to removal action, can be found in Asylum transparency data:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2017

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106741/>

Asylum

Richard Burden (Labour) [106486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of restrictions to work on asylum seekers whose applications take longer than six months to process.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK

unless their claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own. The policy is designed to protect the resident labour market so that access to employment is prioritised for British citizens and lawful residents, including those granted refugees status.

Asylum seekers do not need to work whilst their claim is considered – they are provided with accommodation and support to meet their essential living needs if they would otherwise be destitute.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106486/>

Asylum

Hilary Benn (Labour) [106742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for asylum were refused, broken down by gender, in each of the last five years.

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.

The Home Office publishes figures on the outcome of asylum claims made during each calendar year in table as_06 of the *Immigration Statistics* release.

A copy of the latest release, *Immigration Statistics April to June 2017* is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106742/>

Asylum: Medical Records

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [106402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason her Department has started contacting asylum seekers asking them to sign a consent form that would give her Department access to their personal medical records.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The process of obtaining medical information is not a mandatory part of the asylum process nor is it a new process. Before any decision is made on an asylum claim it is vital we are aware of any information that is relevant to the award of any form of leave.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106402/>

Asylum: Housing

Rachel Reeves (Labour): [106322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to revise the process for awarding contracts to private companies for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: All Home Office contracts are tendered in compliance with the EU Procurement Directives, which ensure that there is a transparent and equitable procurement process.

The project that is putting in place contracts to replace the current suite of contracts from 2019, will be utilising the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation procedure. This allows the contracting authority the opportunity to negotiate with short-listed bidders in a structured manner before inviting final tenders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106322/>

Asylum: Housing

Rachel Reeves (Labour) [106323] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what measures are in place to ensure that private subcontractors providing accommodation for asylum seekers are meeting the standards of the Housing Act and that such measures are enforced and complaints acted on.

Reply from Brandon Lewis” Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contract requires Providers to visit and inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to inspect, investigate and quickly resolve when specific information is received and a contract management regime to monitor supplier performance and take measures where appropriate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106323/>

Asylum: Housing

Rachel Reeves (Labour) [106327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been moved more than four times in a year by (a) G4S and (b) other providers of accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office closely monitors the movement of all asylum seekers by accommodation providers, however historic statistics on the number of people who have been relocated from dispersed accommodation more than four times in a year could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All relocation requests are monitored by UKVI and no individual will be moved on more than two occasions within a twelve month period unless there are exceptional circumstance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106327/>

Asylum: Yazidis

Helen Jones (Labour) [107211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Yazidi people have been admitted to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme prioritises the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the scheme UNHCR identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria.

The UK resettles solely on the basis of needs, identified by UNHCR. Individuals , ethnic and religious background is not part of this consideration. We do not publish a religious or ethnic breakdown of those who have been resettled.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107211/>

Undocumented Migrants

Afzal Khan (Labour) [106755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to collect data on the ethnicity or race and religion of people recorded as encountered in immigration enforcement operations.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has no plans to routinely collect data on the ethnicity, race or religion of people encountered on Immigration Enforcement operations. This data is not recorded as it is not relevant to the determination of a person’s immigration status at that point.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106755/>

Undocumented Migrants

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [105809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department collects on the nationality of people spot-checked by immigration officers and subsequently (a) arrested and (b) not arrested.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The nationality of every individual arrested during immigration enforcement activity is recorded as part of their immigration records.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powers-and-operational-procedure>

The nationality of individuals spoken to or encountered but not arrested during deployments in public areas may or may not be recorded.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105809/>

Detention Centres

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107496] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to reduce the size of the immigration detention estate.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is transferring The Verne immigration removal centre back to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service from January 2018, which will reduce the size of the immigration detention estate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107496/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107469] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce a time limit on the period for which an individual can be detained for immigration purposes.

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 and thus avoid their enforced removal from the UK. Published Home Office policy is clear, however, that detention is only used for the shortest period necessary.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapters-46-to-62-detention-and-removals>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107469/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the length of time people are detained for immigration purposes.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office are continually reviewing internal processes to ensure that the time any individual spends in immigration detention is kept to a minimum. Each person's case is considered on the specific individual circumstances surrounding their immigration and/or offending history.

Following Stephen Shaw's review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons a number of casework changes were introduced to improve the efficiency of case progression and therefore reduce the time any individual spends in immigration detention. These include a single Detention Gatekeeper function to ensure an independent assessment on the suitability for detention is made and Case Progression Panels to provide an internally independent review of suitability for continued detention and the progression of case actions.

The Home Office will also soon introduce a duty from the 2016 Immigration Act to provide additional judicial oversight of immigration detention to the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. This 'auto-bail provision' will involve those in immigration detention being referred to the Tribunal for a bail hearing every 4 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107470/>

Overseas Students: Deportation

Keith Vaz (Labour) [107581] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Test of English for International Communication students are currently in deportation centres.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions in response to the abuse of secure English language testing.

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

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

The information you request is not currently available. The table in SELT_02 is the closest match to the information requested.

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107581/>

Human Trafficking: Nationality

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [106911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people convicted of human trafficking offences were (a) UK nationals, (b) other EU nationals and (c) nationals from outside the EU in each of the last three years.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Data relating to the number of people prosecuted and convicted for modern slavery and human trafficking offences in England and Wales can be found in the “criminal justice system outcomes by offence” data tool table contained in the annual Criminal Justice Statistics publication, linked below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2016>

It is not possible to disaggregate this data by the nationality of defendants as this information is not held centrally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-10/106911/>

Press Releases

PM's open letter to EU citizens in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-open-letter-to-eu-citizens-in-the-uk>

Man convicted of murder following knife attack on asylum seeker

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/man-convicted-of-murder-following-k/

EU Anti-Trafficking Day: Stronger action needed to fight trafficking in human beings

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/eu-anti-trafficking-day-stronger-action-needed-fight-trafficking-human-beings_en

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre: Equality and Human Rights Commission letter to the Home Secretary

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/brook-house-immigration-removal-centre-letter-home-secretary>

All EU countries must take their fair share of asylum seekers

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20171016IPR86161/all-eu-countries-must-take-their-fair-share-of-asylum-seekers>

New Publications

2017 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2017-0587/UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery_2017.pdf

Safe but Alone: The role of English language in allowing refugees to overcome loneliness

<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Safe-but-Alone-final.pdf>

Breakdown: the dismantling of the Calais “Jungle” and of the promises to its unaccompanied children

<http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BHRC-Calais-Report.pdf>

News

Brexit: May offers more assurances to EU nationals

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41672097>

EU citizens' rights groups dismiss May letter as meaningless

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/19/eu-citizens-rights-groups-dismiss-may-letter-as-meaningless>

UK to begin registering EU nationals for 'settled status' by end of 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/17/britain-to-accept-eu-nationals-by-default-says-amber-rudd>

Amber Rudd's decision to send home Americans in Scotland upheld

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/amber-rudd-s-decision-to-send-home-americans-in-scotland-upheld-1-4591181>

Amber Rudd faces inquiry after 'abhorrent abuse' of immigrants at G4S detention centre

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/amber-rudd-g4s-immigrant-brook-house-detention-centre-inquiry-abuse-a8005706.html>

MPs to study effect of immigration policy on Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-41682584>

Easier English language test to help NHS recruit more foreign nurses

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-18/news/easier-english-language-test-to-help-recruit-more-foreign-nurses-pllzxwadb>

Forged IDs: Landlord laws 'fuelling black market'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-41593684>

Refugee talent can plug skills gap, claims charity

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-16/scotland/refugee-talent-can-plug-skills-gap-claims-charity-x3787wml3>

Rescued refugee children facing limbo – and worse – in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/19/refugee-children-uk-dubs-migration-eu>

Pregnant British woman ordered by NHS to prove she is from UK to receive free treatment

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pregnant-british-woman-emma-szewczak-harris-nhs-treatment-addenbrookes-hospital-polish-uk-a8012846.html>

Eight-months-pregnant British woman is refused treatment by Cambridge hospital unless she can prove she is English – after taking her Polish husband's surname

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5002286/Pregnant-British-woman-hospital-nationality-row.html>

Government looking into case of Western Isles teenager denied passport

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-41652577>

Asylum seeker stabbed to death playing football in a London park fled Afghanistan after five members of his family were shot dead in their beds by the Taliban

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4992538/London-stabbing-victim-fled-Afghan-slaughter.html>

Tearful daughter, six, is left without her Thai mother who has been forced out of the country by visa row despite being married to British husband for eight years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4988046/Daughter-six-left-without-Thai-mother-visa-row.html>

Home Office reverses decision to make stroke victim's wife leave UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/20/home-office-reverses-decision-stroke-victim-wife-leave-uk>

Wife of stroke victim who needs 24hr care must leave UK while he cares for children

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/17/wife-of-stroke-victim-who-needs-24hr-care-must-leave-uk-while-he-cares-for-children>

Home Office issues visa to stranded Royal Navy pilot's wife

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/19/home-office-issues-visa-to-stranded-royal-navy-pilots-wife>

Wife of 'Top Gun' war hero Simon Rawlins is finally coming home after being granted visa

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/19/exclusive-wife-top-gun-war-hero-simon-rawlins-finally-coming/>

Wife of 'Top Gun' pilot finally granted entry to UK after five months

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wife-top-gun-pilot-marianne-simon-rawlins-home-office-visa-entry-a8011961.html>

American couple told to leave home in Highlands

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/american-couple-told-to-leave-home-in-highlands-mvpbbg2ql>

Syrian refugee faces deportation from Cardiff to Bulgaria

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-41672742>

Young Syrian faces being separated from family again after UK reunion

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/18/young-syrian-separated-family-uk-reunion-mohammed-mirzo-cardiff>

Home Office reverses decision to deport Palestinian-Syrian asylum seeker after family's pleas

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-palestinian-syrian-asylum-seeker-yousef-hassan-deportation-u-turn-a8009841.html>

Deportations cut number of rough sleepers in London

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/deportations-cut-number-of-rough-sleepers-in-london-xr6fd5s27>

Brook House: Inquiry call into immigration centre allegations

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41655493>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-08246 Ben Macpherson (SNP): Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah – That the Parliament acknowledges the Bahá'í community of Scotland's efforts as it prepares to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í faith, which is a worldwide religion that was founded in 19th-century Iran; notes that Bahá'í communities across Scotland have arranged celebrations and exhibitions to mark the bicentenary, including a parliamentary reception in the Garden Lobby at 6pm on 25 October 2017, which will be hosted by the Presiding Officer, and other events throughout the year; acknowledges the historical contribution of Scotland's Bahá'ís to community life across the country, in particular to the cultivation of interfaith dialogue, and notes the impact of Bahá'u'lláh's message, which continues to inspire millions of every ethnicity, nationality and background around the world to find purpose in contributing to the advancement of global civilization and championing the universal principles of justice, unity and equality.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08246>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Race Relations: Scotland

Paul Masterton (Conservative) [106206] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what joint working the Government is undertaking with the Scottish Government to promote racial tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

Reply from Marcus Jones: On 12 October my noble friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, met Angela Constance MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities in the Scottish Government) together with Carl Sargeant AM (Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in the Welsh Government) in Edinburgh. The meeting was the second in a series aimed at exploring common interest and sharing best practice on community cohesion. Among the topics for discussion was a presentation by Interfaith Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106206/>

Press Release

"Together, let's make a difference" – PM marks Black History Month

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/together-lets-make-a-difference-pm-marks-black-history-month>

News

It's Black History Month – and at last we're celebrating British heroes

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/16/black-history-month-british-culture-identity>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Adult Education

Ian Austin (Labour) [106415] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of adults who are (a) Black, Asian and minority ethnic, (b) with a special educational need or disability or (c) from disadvantaged backgrounds do not participate in any adult education or training.

Reply from Anne Milton: Estimates for the proportion of different groups who do not participate in adult education and training are not available.

However, the department does produce equality and diversity information on current participants in further education (FE) and skills provision, published as part of its further education official statistics here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-further-education-and-skills>.

The Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) also publish numbers of students in higher education by student characteristics here:

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/eddata/>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106415/>

Criminal Proceedings: Minority Groups

Hugh Gaffney (Labour) [106360] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to implement the recommendations of the Lammy Review, an independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system.

Reply from Phillip Lee: The Government is considering carefully all the recommendations made by David Lammy in his review and will respond in full, in due course. As part of my Department's work stemming from the Race Disparity Audit published on 10 October we have confirmed that, in advance of our full response, we are able to accept four recommendations from the Review. These relate to the principle of "explain or change", publishing more and better data on ethnicity, recruiting a more representative prison service workforce and developing indicators within prisons' performance framework that allow us to assess the equality of outcomes for prisoners of all ethnicities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106360/>

Press Releases

A beacon for the black business leaders of tomorrow

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/a-beacon-for-the-black-business-leaders-of-tomorrow>

Baroness Williams speech to National Black Police Association

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/baroness-williams-speech-to-national-black-police-association>

News

BME Political Shadowing Scheme

Deadline for applications: 27 November 2017

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER) training on Scottish and UK politics, equalities, campaigning and lobbying, and the media. Informative visits to the Scottish Parliament and Glasgow City Chambers are also offered. Training is followed by shadowing a Member of the Scottish Parliament or a city councillor. Previous participants have drafted parliamentary motions and questions, researched relevant local and national issues, attended debates and surgeries, and compiled press briefings.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7ec2e5_e52edab921c047a6b7377138de62269e.pdf

Black students on Oxbridge: 'we need to change the narrative'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/oct/20/black-students-on-oxbridge-we-need-to-change-the-narrative>

Black or Muslim inmates twice as likely to have negative experiences in prison, report finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-muslim-prisoners-inmates-twice-likely-negative-experiences-report-a8007476.html>

Black and Muslim prisoners suffer worse treatment, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/oct/19/black-and-muslim-prisoners-suffer-worse-treatment-study-finds>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-08294 Lewis Macdonald (Labour): GREC Launches New Hate Crime Awareness Campaign – That the Parliament welcomes the launch of a new hate crime awareness campaign by Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC), which aims to educate people in Aberdeen and across the Grampian area about the definition of hate crime, the methods available to those who want to report hate crime incidents to the authorities, and the services offered by GREC to help those who have been the victim of a hate crime; recognises that GREC's hate crime awareness campaign was launched on 14 October 2017 to mark Hate Crime Awareness Week, and will run until the end of National Anti-Bullying Week on 17 November; understands that GREC has created new hate crime awareness posters, which will be displayed in and around Aberdeen, as well as holding a series of educational events in the area, and hopes that, by raising awareness of hate crime, GREC helps to make progress towards a reduction in the number of these crimes being committed in the north east.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08294>

S5M-08264 Mary Fee (Labour): LGBTI Hate Crime –That the Parliament notes the findings of the Equality Network’s recent report, Scottish LGBTI hate crime report 2017, and condemns what it sees as the continued prevalence of LGBTI prejudice in society in Scotland that the research demonstrates; notes with regret that 90% respondents reported that they have been the target of a hate crime on at least two or three different occasions; believes that this corroborates with the findings of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, which, it understands, reported that prejudice against trans people remained significantly higher than that towards people who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB); notes that 80% of trans people stated that they had been the target of hate crime, around 20% higher than the figure for LGB people; acknowledges with concern what it sees as the continuing existence of LGBTI discrimination in football, with 66% of respondents stating that they had either experienced or witnessed homophobic, biphobic or transphobic hate crime at matches, when travelling to and from games or at venue where a match was being shown, and urges all professional, semi-professional and grassroots football clubs to sign up to the Equality Network’s LGBT Sports Charter as a clear commitment to eradicate prejudice in sport.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08264>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107505] To ask the Attorney General, with reference to page 11 of the Crown Prosecution Service’s (CPS) 2016-17 annual report, on hate crime campaigns, what hate crime campaigns (a) have been delivered to date and (b) are to be delivered in future by region and partner organisation.

Reply from Jeremy Wright: The CPS is committed to raising awareness of hate crime and increasing the confidence of victims and witnesses when they come to report it. In August 2017, to coincide with the launch of the revised public statements on hate crime, the CPS launched the week-long #HateCrimeMatters campaign with involvement from each CPS Area as well as a wide range of local and national community partner organisations. The social media campaign had over 7,000 contributors and the campaign website has had almost 6,000 views.

During National Hate Crime Awareness Week (NHCAW), the CPS is standing alongside its community partner organisations and published its Annual Hate Crime report on 17 October. This was accompanied by communications activity including both national and local engagement with the NHCAW campaign.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107505/>

The annual report referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628968/CP_S_annual_report_2016_17.pdf

Hate Crime: Internet

Louise Haigh (Labour) [106678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to her Department’s announcement of 8 October 2017 on a new national online hate crime hub, what the total expected operational budget is for that hub; how many specialist officers her Department plans to employ in that hub; and whether she plans to draw the funding for that hub from existing budgets.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office has allocated initial funding of £200,000 p.a. for the new national online hate crime hub, from existing Home

Office budgets. The funding will cover three specialist officers and one specialist analyst / researcher.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106678/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107504] To ask the Attorney General, with reference to page 11 of the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) 2016-17 annual report, on the appointment of inclusion and community engagement managers, whether the CPS consulted (a) Muslim community based organisations and (b) other groups addressing anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crime.

Jeremy Wright: The CPS regularly consults with Muslim community based organisations to address anti-Muslim prejudice and hate crime. Nationally, the CPS consults with community-based organisations through its Community Accountability Forum, which includes a representative from the All Parliamentary Group on British Muslims. At a local level, Inclusion and Community Engagement Managers also engage with local Muslim community based organisations through Local Scrutiny and Involvement Panels (LSIPs) in each CPS Area.

The CPS circulated the job advert containing details of the posts of Inclusion and Community Engagement Managers to the Community Accountability Forum, LSIPs and other community contacts, to encourage the widest possible pool of people to apply.

The CPS is also a member of the cross Government anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, the cross Government Hate Crime Strategic Group, and the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, all of which include a number of representatives from Muslim organisations that actively tackle anti-Muslim hatred.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107504/>

The annual report referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628968/CPS_annual_report_2016_17.pdf

Employment: Bullying

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [105558] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, which Government Department is responsible for collecting reports of (a) anti-Semitic, (b) Islamophobic, (c) racist and (d) homophobic bullying in the work place.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government does not systematically collect such reports but the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the independent public body sponsored by the Government Equalities Office, is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of equality and human rights legislation.

The Commission's report 'How Fair is Britain?' (2010) and follow up research report 74 ("Public authority commitment and action to eliminate targeted harassment and violence") included data about unlawful harassment in the workplace.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service provides advice on employment rights and workplace disputes. Its study, 'Seeking better solutions: tackling bullying and ill-treatment in Britain's workplaces' (2015) looked at the latest research on workplace bullying.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105558/>

"How Fair is Britain", referred to above, can be read at

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/how_fair_is_britain_-_complete_report.pdf

"Public authority commitment and action to eliminate targeted harassment and violence",

referred to above, can be read at

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/rr74_targeted_harassment.pdf

“Seeking better solutions: tackling bullying and ill-treatment in Britain’s workplaces”, referred to above, can be read at

<http://m.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/e/b/Seeking-better-solutions-tackling-bullying-and-ill-treatment-in-Britains-workplaces.pdf>

Sports: Discrimination

Jo Stevens (Labour) [107230] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what information her Department holds on cases of discrimination on the basis of (a) race, (b) gender and (c) sexual orientation in elite sport.

Reply from Tracey Crouch: The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport does not hold any information on cases of discrimination in elite sport. Although UK Sport does not hold disaggregated data on discrimination, since 2013, UK Sport has received two complaints on the basis of race discrimination (one of which was related to grassroots sport), one gymnastics-related complaint on the basis of gender, and multiple cycling-related complaints on the basis of gender against a cycling coach's alleged comments to a female rider. UK Sport has received no complaints regarding sexual orientation.

There is no place for racism, sexism, homophobia or any other kind of discrimination in sport. Tackling discrimination lies at the heart of the cross-government sport strategy "Sporting Future" and we want sport to be at the forefront of equality. Government continues to work with National Governing Bodies and organisations such as Kick It Out, Stonewall and Women in Football to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport. Our aim is to increase diversity among sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators, participants and people in its workforce. Our Code for Sport Governance stipulates that funded sporting organisations should publish information about their work to foster all aspects of diversity within their leadership and decision-making.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107230/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Islamophobia

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty’s Government whether they have a definition of Islamophobia; and, if so, what it is.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government and Northern Ireland Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth): My Lords, we are clear that hatred and intolerance against Muslims have absolutely no place in our society. Any criminal offence that is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person’s religion or perceived religion is a religious hate crime. The Government do not currently endorse a particular definition of Islamophobia. Previous attempts by others to define this term have not succeeded in attracting consensus or widespread acceptance.

Baroness Warsi: I thank my noble friend for that Answer. He will be aware that it is 20 years since the Runnymede Trust published *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All*, which first tackled the issue of Islamophobia. Does he agree that it is high time for us to have a definition of Islamophobia? Does he agree that we cannot fundamentally challenge the hate that underpins hate crime unless we define what that hate is? Is he agreeable to meeting a cross-section of community organisations and individuals, including the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, to come to a definition?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I acknowledge the massive and continuing work that my noble friend does in this area. As to her last point, I am very happy to meet the all-party group and community organisations to discuss these issues. There is a definition, as my noble friend rightly says, used by the Runnymede Trust. There are many definitions, but we do not use a single definition of Islamophobia, and I do not accept that there is a need for a definitive one. It is clearly recognised, and we have very effective monitoring of race-hate crimes. As my noble friend knows, considerable work is done by Tell MAMA and the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group in these areas. We do that while understanding and being able to recognise Islamophobia, but perhaps not being able to define it precisely.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, the noble Baroness, Lady Warsi, has rightly drawn our attention to the vagueness of the term Islamophobia. I add a point that concerns me: the culture of victimhood that it can easily lead to, which is not very healthy. There is also the way in which figures for crimes against other people are included in the statistics for Islamophobia—up to one-third, according to a freedom of information request. But the greatest concern is that this sort of thing does not really tackle the underlying issue of hate crime, which arises out of ignorance and prejudice. It is there at all levels of society, and we are doing very little to combat it.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Lord is right about the general nature of the fact that we have a considerable body of hate crime based on race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age and so on. Any hate crime is a crime against us all; that is a starting point. It is worth noting that we have some very effective legislation in this country, which is—thank goodness—very much enforced on a routine and regular basis. I do not accept that we are unable to act on this because we have no particular definition of Islamophobia. As I said, considerable and very effective work is done by Tell MAMA and the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group in that area. We see the results of that every day through very effective reporting and enforcing, and considerable interfaith work done by groups coming together in that regard.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich: My Lords, does the Minister agree that, whatever our definition of Islamophobia, one of the most effective ways of preventing it is by good relationships between the different faith communities, exemplified by the new church/mosque twinning programme promoted by the Christian Muslim Forum? That is already established in Oldham, Rochdale, Walsall and Wolverhampton. What can the Government do to encourage those local community initiatives, which can transform the way in which a local community views Muslims in their midst?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the right reverend Prelate is right about the many good examples on the ground, brought about by the Christian church, in conjunction with the Muslim religion and, often, with the Jewish religion. I have seen very effective partnerships, such as Nisa-Nashim, as well as the effective partnerships through virtually all our 42 cathedrals in England, where massive good work is done. Considerable good work, probably more effective than anything, is also done by prominent British Muslims through example. I am thinking of people such as Nadiya Hussain, Mo Farah and so on, who probably do far more by example than many of these programmes.

Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Labour): My Lords, will the Minister give the House an undertaking that, given some statements by police authorities that they are unable to cover the following-up of hate crimes because of cuts in their staffing levels and budgets, the Government will act immediately to ensure that police budgets are made up to the point where hate crimes can be followed through?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, we and the Home Office meet regularly with police forces to discuss these issues, and that issue has not been brought to my attention. If the noble Baroness has evidence of this, I would be very happy to look at it. Indeed, if any noble Lord has such evidence, please

bring it forward, and I will certainly take a close look at it.

Baroness Pinnock (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, monitoring hate crimes is very important, but encouraging education programmes to counter hate crime is more so. Given that local government cuts have resulted in savage reductions in community cohesion programmes and young people's services, will the Minister agree to explore ways in which more resources could be provided to enable local councils to provide those services to encourage greater cohesion and understanding between communities?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, local authorities do an excellent job in ensuring that organisations such as the Holocaust Educational Trust get the message across about some of the dreadful events that have happened in the past and in ensuring that community cohesion, good interfaith relations and the importance of different religions is understood in schools. That is happening very effectively, as I see on a regular basis when I visit schools and other community organisations.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-10-17/debates/A731DF08-23EA-4D1F-B206-00FCB7EB2C67/Islamophobia>

Press Release

Record numbers receive tougher hate crime sentences

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/record-numbers-receive-tougher-hate/

New Publications

Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2016/17

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652136/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717.pdf

Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017: data tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651719/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717-tables.ods

Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017: appendix tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/651722/hate-crime-1617-hosb1717-appendix-tables.ods

Crown Prosecution Service Hate Crime Annual Report 2016–17

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/cps_hate_crime_report_2017.pdf

News

Rise in hate crime in England and Wales

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41648865>

Hate crimes in Wales up by 22%, Home Office data shows

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-41652858>

Hate crime levels spike in the wake of terror attacks as police record more victims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/17/hate-crime-levels-spike-wake-terror-attacks-police-record-victims/>

Terror attacks and EU referendum fuel a rise in hate crimes

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-18/news/terror-attacks-and-eu-referendum-fuel-a-rise-in-hate-crimes-52ljkrlpc>

Fall in hate-crime trials

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-17/news/fall-in-hate-crime-trials-28fz65m8x>

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights says Police Scotland suffers from “institutional racism”

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15611885.Police_Scotland_accused_of_institutional_racism_/?ref=mr&lp=4

British men suffering Islamophobic abuse because they 'look Muslim', reveals research

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-hate-abuse-racism-uk-verbal-physical-emotional-look-beards-islamophobia-research-a8005156.html>

Man left fake bomb at Paisley mosque after London Bridge attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-41679636>

Race hate bigot left fake bomb at mosque after watching TV reports of London Bridge terror attack

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/race-hate-bigot-left-fake-11373846>

Twitter refuses to remove an anti-Semitic tweet saying it is 'absolutely vile' that north London is 'riddled with Jews' - because it was 'not abusive'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5001584/Twitter-refuses-tweet-calling-Jews-vile.html>

Why row over anti-Semitism claims in the Labour Party is making so many Jews like me want to leave Britain

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5002750/Labour-anti-Semitism-making-Jews-want-leave-Britain.html>

Neighbour from hell sentenced after targeting young couple with bigoted sectarian rants

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/neighbour-hell-sentenced-after-targeting-11352730>

Plan for Islamic centre in largely Jewish London area sparks anger and Islamophobia allegations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/islamic-centre-golders-green-jewish-north-london-area-islamophobia-racism-muslim-anti-semitism-a8005486.html>

Police hunt men who put Nazi poster next to UK's oldest synagogue

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/nazi-poster-synagogue-bevis-marks-city-of-london-police-hunt-suspects-hate-crime-antisemitism-a8005586.html>

Influential Sikh youth group associating with far-right EDL founder Tommy Robinson

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sikh-youth-uk-muslim-film-university-tommy-robinson-edl-sex-groomers-islamophobia-racism-a8002526.html>

Sainsbury's worker arrested over 'racist' Snapchat video

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-41683999>

University of Sussex student bottled in alleged racist attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-41676916>

You shouldn't have to 'dress up as a Muslim' to understand that Islamophobia is wrong
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/my-week-as-a-muslim-islam-channel-4-islamophobia-prejudice-stereotype-a8010811.html>

Scotland's leading Historian Sir Tom Devine blasts talk of anti-Catholic bigotry at universities

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15610684.Talk_of_anti_Catholic_bigotry_at_universities_is_rubbish_says_Sir_Tom/

Sickening Shia Hatred in Blackburn Cemetery – A Sign of Sectarian Extremism

<https://tellmamauk.org/sickening-shia-hatred-in-blackburn-cemetery-a-sign-of-sectarian-extremism/>

This Black History Month, let's try teaching that racism is still with us

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/19/black-history-month-schools-racism-rosa-parks>

East London primary school head apologises for slave dress letter

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/oct/17/east-london-primary-school-head-apologises-for-slave-dress-letter>

Hate crime has become the new normal. This is how we tackle it

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/17/hate-crime-racism-islamophobia-misogyny>

Channel 4 show about Muslims accused of 'brownface'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-41692252>

Channel 4's 'brownface' documentary is no way to portray Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/20/channel-4-brownface-tv-documentary-my-week-as-a-muslim-niqab-racism>

My Week as a Muslim documentary sparks racism row

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2017/oct/19/my-week-as-a-muslim-documentary-sparks-racism-row>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Devolved Powers in Scotland

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-17/debates/6619B95F-FCF3-4A74-A34B-0B10B9E4CF05/DevolvedPowersInScotland>

UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee

Evidence session: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: implications for devolution

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/scottish-affairs-committee/european-union-withdrawal-bill-implications-for-devolution/oral/71321.html>

Press Release

PM's Diwali message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-diwali-message-18-october-2017>

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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>

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!**

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

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>

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>

Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers [Welsh Government consultation]

(closing date 21 December 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/enabling-gypsies-roma-and-travellers>

International students: economic and social impacts (closing date 26 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

**** Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights** (no closing date given)
<https://allin.limequery.com/372759>

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

**** closes this week!**

Community Capacity and Resilience Fund
Closing date for applications 26 October 2017

This fund gives local community based organisations the opportunity to test out new, creative approaches, develop their workforce and add capacity all with the aim of having a preventative impact on communities, help combat social inequalities, promote social inclusion and support partnership working. The fund is looking to award grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to eligible third sector organisations to deliver projects/activities for up to a 9 month period that support individuals and communities to mitigate the impact of welfare reform and poverty. In addition, some grants of up to £10,000 will be available for pilot projects that need a longer time demonstrate their effectiveness. For more information and to apply see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/running-your-organisation/funding/capacity-resilience-fund/>

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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**** *this week!***

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>

**** *this week!***

Scotland's Census 2021 – 'Caribbean of Black' Ethnicity

26 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

National Registers of Scotland focus groups about the terminology used in the ethnic group question in Scotland's Census. These focus groups are particularly for people who might identify as 'Caribbean or Black' in the ethnic group census question. For information and to book for the Edinburgh event see <http://tinyurl.com/y8xkwg7s> and for the Glasgow event see <http://tinyurl.com/yc6vjnq>

**** *this week!***

Cup of Tea with a Refugee week

Week beginning 23 October 2017

The Scottish Refugee Council is encouraging groups across Scotland to host their own Cup of Tea events, which are a great way to bring people together to get to know one another in a friendly, relaxed way. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yc38yqaj> or contact info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** *this week!***

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

24 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

31 October 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore ways to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

**** *this week!***

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

24 October 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

31 October 2017 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland, and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

**** *this week!***

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

**** this week!**

Big Lottery Fund funding surgery

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (5.00-7.00)

BEMIS and the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) funding workshop providing one-to-one contact with staff from the BLF to develop potential projects and help secure funding. For information contact mail@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** this week!**

When Lions Start Writing Down Their Own Stories

28 October 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Information and Learning for All project providing an opportunity to hear about African history and heritage from the perspective of young people of African descent who have been exploring the history and heritage of Africans living in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9p79h75> or contact ilfaprojectscotland@gmail.com / 07466 352 002.

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

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

Age Assessment Awareness

8 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.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/y9pvpl5r> 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>.

Immigration Act 2016 – “The Hostile Environment” basics

14 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH briefing for people providing services to or working with immigrants to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

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/y7mz5uuu> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

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/y77alnbx> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

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

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/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

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.

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/yaadfbc2>

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/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scotland's National Action Plan (SNAP) for Human Rights**

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to mark International Human Rights Day 2017 and the end of SNAP's first four years, and providing an opportunity to reflect on SNAP's successes and challenges, guide what comes next, and inform the final evaluation and report on SNAP's first four years. For information see <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/national-participation-event/> or contact actionplan@scottishhumanrights.com

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

24 January 2018 at Glasgow Caledonian University

Details will be available in due course. For information contact the Scottish Interfaith Council admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778.

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(closing date abstracts for posters, presentations and workshops: 6 October 2017)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

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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/>

[TOP](#)



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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