

## 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.*

### Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
	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.**

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Debate

#### English Language Teaching: Refugees

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-24/debates/B7130941-F08E-4DE2-ADBB-DBF4623E3605/EnglishLanguageTeachingRefugees>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Immigration: Scotland

**Joanna Cherry (SNP)** [108733] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in Scotland were granted permanent residence and settlement in (a) 2012, (b) 2013, (c) 2014, (d) 2015 and (e) 2016.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The available information published on the total number of permanent residence documents issued and grants of settlement is

published in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics, April – June 2017, European Economic Area (EEA) table ee\_02 and Settlement table se\_02 available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108733/>

### **Immigration: Fees and Charges**

**Nigel Evans (Conservative)** [109331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the equity of the fee to apply for settled status in the UK; and whether she plans to waive the fee for applicants for settled status who are non-UK citizens and who apply because the UK is leaving the EU.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office firmly believes that the application fee to settle in the United Kingdom (UK) is fair and is representative of the benefits available to those choosing to permanently reside here. Visa, immigration and citizenship fees are set at a level that helps provide resources necessary to operate the border, immigration and citizenship (BIC) system, reducing burden on the UK taxpayer.

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Theresa May wrote a letter to EU citizens and their family members resident within the UK to reaffirm that citizens' rights are the first priority, and that we are developing a streamlined digital process for those applying for settled status. The cost of which will be kept as low as possible and will be no more than the cost of a UK passport.

The Prime Minister's letter is available at:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-24/109331/>

### **Visas: Migrant Workers**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [108188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward Tier 5 visa applications in each quarter of the last five years.

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [108208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time was for non-straightforward Tier 4 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/2017-10-17/108188/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108208/>

### **Visas**

**Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat)** [108835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of settlement and non-settlement visa applications have required applicants to submit additional documents in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those applications have been resolved within (a) 15, (b) 60 and (c) 90 working days.

**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/2017-10-19/108835/>

### Visas

**Jo Swinson (Liberal Democrat)** [108858] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of (a) priority and (b) non-priority visa applications at each visa application centre were completed within the 12-week UK Visa and Immigration service standard in the most recent year for which data is available.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Information on performance against service standards is published as part of the transparency data at

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

The latest data shows that for 2017 Q1, 96.5% of straightforward applications were completed within Service standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108858/>

### Visas: Turkey

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [107765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Turkish citizens were granted a Turkish Businessperson visa to the UK under the terms of the Ankara Agreement in each year between 2007 and 2017.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [107766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had discussions with her counterpart in Turkey on the future of the Turkish Businessperson visa established under the terms of the Ankara Agreement after the UK leaves the EU.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [107767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to continue to offer the Turkish Businessperson visa established under the terms of the Ankara Agreement after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office statistics does not routinely publish statistics on those granted entry clearance to the UK under the Ankara Agreement. Information on the number of entry clearance visas granted since 2005 (grouped by nationality and category) can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/why-do-people-come-to-the-UK-2-to-work>

UK-Turkey agreements, and our future relationship, will be considered as part of the UK's EU exit arrangements. We will of course consult closely with our Turkish counterparts before taking any decisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107765/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107766/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107767/>

### Immigration

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [108672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason permanent residence cards have been deemed to be

invalid once the UK has left the EU.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Permanent Residence cards confirm the acquisition of a permanent right to reside in the UK under European law. In future, the Free Movement Directive will no longer apply and the migration and status of EU nationals will be subject to UK law. We have put forward a fair and serious offer to the EU, giving EU citizens who have arrived before a specified date, the opportunity to acquire UK settled status after five years' continuous residence thus enabling them to carry on with their lives as before.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108672/>

### Immigration

**Gerard Killen (Labour)** [106719] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what the Government's policy is on ensuring non-EU nationals who are partners of UK nationals and became resident in the UK under EU freedom of movement laws can continue to live in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Robin Walker:** As the Prime Minister has set out, we want to ensure that families who have built their lives together in the EU and UK are able to stay together. The Government's policy paper "Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU" sets out how it proposes to safeguard the position of EU citizens and their family members who are currently living in the UK under the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) once we leave the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106719/>

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Emma Reynolds (Labour)** [107427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate the Government has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens who will qualify for settled status by March 2019.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office has not made any direct estimates of the numbers of EU citizens who will qualify for settled status.

However we know that the estimated population of non-UK EU citizens resident in UK was a) 3.5m by Country of Birth (3.1m excluding Irish born); and b) 3.6m by Nationality (3.2m excluding Irish nationals), in the year ending 2016.\*

\*ONS, Population of the United Kingdom by Country of Birth and Nationality. Released: 24 August 2017, next release: 23 August 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107427/>

### Immigration: Republic of Ireland

**Jim McMahon (Labour Co-op)** [109000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Irish citizens living in the UK will be entitled to residency without new restrictions or requirements when the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The UK and Ireland enjoy a unique relationship that predates both countries' membership of the EU. The close historic, social and cultural ties between the UK and Ireland have led to the creation of reciprocal rights for respective nationals when in the other state, distinct from those enjoyed by virtue of common membership of the EU.

Leaders in the UK and Ireland have confirmed their commitment to protecting these rights for British and Irish nationals which include the right to enter and remain, the right to work and to study and access to social welfare entitlements and benefits.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-23/109000/>

### **Homelessness: Foreign Nationals**

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [108137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions her Department has in place to help support sponsored foreign nationals at risk of homelessness if their sponsor is no longer available.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Foreign nationals in the UK who are sponsored, are generally expected to leave the UK if their sponsor is no longer available. Those who qualify for residence in their own right, may be able to apply for housing benefits or homelessness assistance if the conditions of their stay allow recourse to public funds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108137/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Roger Godsiff (Labour)** [106768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the UK has not yet facilitated the transfer of any child refugees to the UK under the Dubs amendment; and what steps she has taken to ensure that that facilitation takes place.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 and transfers are ongoing.

We are working very closely with Member States, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGO partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws.

In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied children to the UK from Europe, including more than 200 children who met the criteria for section 67.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-09/106768/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [107990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department's policy on unaccompanied child refugees is informed by the principle of putting children's best interests at the centre of all decision-making, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Office to ensure that its immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom.

This includes ensuring that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in every decision taken in respect of them. These arrangements are reflected in the Home Office's rules, policy and guidance that relate to the handling of decisions made in respect of children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107990/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [108206] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what funding his Department has allocated to local authorities to support child refugees.

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** On 10 November last year my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, along with the Home Secretary and the Minister for Vulnerable Children, wrote to local authorities to alert them to potential help regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children from the Controlling Migration Fund. The Fund fulfils a manifesto commitment to

help areas facing challenges linked to recent migration and is able to help with issues such as training for social workers who may be helping these young people.

We wrote again on 28 March this year outlining a first stage payment of £2 million to authorities supporting those arriving. We will announce later this year further payments to areas which have bid for specific projects looking to boost sustainable capacity in local authorities caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108206/>

#### **Refugees: Children**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [108379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to review the eligibility criteria for the Dubs scheme; and whether children who have arrived in Europe after the EU-Turkey deal on 20 March 2016 will be eligible for transfer under that scheme.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Government is fully committed to transferring 480 unaccompanied children from Europe under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and transfers are ongoing. To be eligible, children must have been present in Europe before 20 March 2016, and it be determined, following individual assessment, that it would be in their best interest to be transferred to the UK.

Member States have been asked to prioritise those likely to qualify for refugee status and the most vulnerable. The requirement to be present in Europe before 20 March 2016 has been in place since the passage of section 67 in May 2016, and supports the principle that the scheme should not act as a pull factor for further children to make dangerous journeys to Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108379/>

#### **Refugees: Children**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [108381] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure provision of legal assistance for unaccompanied migrant children in the UK.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are placed into the care of local authorities and are provided with specialised legal advice and support.

The Home Office works closely with the Legal Aid Agency, which administers the legal aid provision, to ensure that there is sufficient legal assistance coverage throughout the UK. In addition, assistance in accessing legal advice is available from the child's social worker, the Refugee Council Children's Panel of Advisors for children in England and the Scottish Guardianship Service for children in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108381/>

#### **Refugees: Children**

**Vernon Coaker (Labour)** [108546] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department holds on the identities and current whereabouts of children who were living in the Jungle refugee camp in Calais before its demolition.

**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.

In 2016 the UK transferred over 750 children from France as a result of the Calais

camp clearance, and we continue to work with the French authorities to transfer unaccompanied children who may be eligible under the Dublin Regulation or section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

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/2017-10-18/108546/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Vernon Coaker (Labour)** [108639] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment the Government has made of the efficiency of the transfer protocol for unaccompanied child migrants in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The National Transfer Scheme has been working well since its launch in July 2016 and has transferred a significant number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) away from local authorities with large numbers of UASC in their care.

We are currently reviewing the protocol with input from local government partners and plan to publish an updated version shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108639/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Vernon Coaker (Labour)** [108687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the cap on the number of places available to transfer children to the UK under the Dubs scheme.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office consulted extensively with local authorities over several months to reach the specified number of children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. This included a national launch event and over 10 regional events in England, as well as Scotland and Wales. There are already over 4,000 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in local authority care in the UK, and some local authorities host a disproportionate number of children. These children all need support, as do the British children in our care system.

In order to ensure the specified number of children to be transferred is a true reflection of the responses to that consultation, the Government increased the specified number from 350 to 480 following the notification of an administrative error as part of collating the figures.

The Government welcomes all offers from local authorities with capacity to look after unaccompanied asylum seeking children which we will to fulfil our existing commitments, including ensuring a fairer distribution of unaccompanied asylum seeking children between local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108687/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [109274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the safe passage to the UK of child refugees sleeping rough in Calais who (a) meet the Dublin III Regulation family reunification criteria and (b) could be offered a place by local councils under the Dubs scheme.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The primary responsibility for unaccompanied children in France lies with the French authorities. It is vital that children claim

asylum in France rather than risking their lives by attempting to enter the UK illegally. That is the fastest route to safety.

The Dublin III Regulation is the mechanism which determines the Member State responsible for the consideration of an asylum claim. In order for an application to be transferred from France to the UK, an asylum seeker must first claim asylum in France, and the French authorities can request to have the claim transferred to the UK. We continue to work closely with France, other EU Member States and partners to ensure the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin III Regulation.

We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 'Dubs Amendment') and are working very closely with Member States, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGO partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws. Children have been transferred from France under section 67 this year and we have received further referrals. More eligible children will be transferred from Europe under the scheme in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-24/109274/>

### Asylum

**David Linden (SNP)** [108002] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance or service standards are in place to ensure that asylum seekers are able to add (a) dependents and (b) new born children to their asylum support.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Details of the support available to asylum seekers including payments toward the costs arising from the birth of a new baby can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/overview>

The full policy and guidance for processing such claims is published on the GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/asylum-support-asylum-instructions>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108002/>

### Asylum

**Stephen Doughty (Labour)** [108520] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding applications for asylum there were in each of the last 12 months.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office publishes the number of pending applications for asylum in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

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

Table as\_01\_q contains the total number of applications, the total number of initial decisions (broken down by decision type), and the total number of cases where a decision is pending, in each quarter. Further information on the outcomes of asylum applications raised in a given year is available in Table as\_06.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108520/>

### Asylum: Scotland

*The following ten questions all received the same answer*

**David Linden (SNP)** [108006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants living in Scotland have been granted permission to submit their application to her Department's Further Submissions Unit via post in each of the last five years.



**David Linden (SNP)** [108005] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants living in Scotland have been refused permission to submit their applications to her Department's Further Submissions Unit via post in each of the last five years.

#### **Asylum: Appeals**

**David Linden (SNP)** [108000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was between initial telephone contact being made with the Further Submissions Unit of her Department and an appointment being scheduled for the most recent period for which information is available.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108004] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures are in place to ensure that her Department's Further Submissions Unit telephone helpline has sufficient capacity to answer calls.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108007] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a limit on the number of appointments that can be made each day by her Department's Further Submissions Unit.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108008] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many daily appointments were made on average by her Department's Further Submissions Unit in each of the last five years.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the average waiting time to speak to an adviser from her Department's Further Submissions Unit by telephone in each of the last 12 months.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108010] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many daily telephone calls on average her Department's Further Submissions Unit has received in each of the last five years.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108011] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been employed as telephone advisers at her Department's Further Submissions Unit in each of the last five years.

**David Linden (SNP)** [108012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been employed by her Department's Further Submissions Unit in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office implemented a new policy on 30 March 2015 requiring all failed asylum seekers (FAS) whose appeal rights become exhausted but wish to make a further asylum submission, to do so in-person. This change was introduced to improve the handling and processing times of applications. Importantly the in person requirement allows the Home Office to check the identity of those lodging further submissions, reduce the risk of fraud and provides a means to ask questions during the appointment, where necessary, so that we can make a decision more quickly. FAS who want to submit further submissions on asylum or human rights grounds are required to telephone the further submissions unit and book an appointment to submit their further submissions in person in Liverpool.

Lead in times and appointment availability can vary and emergency appointments are offered within a week for those individuals who meet the criteria. The Home Office has however, recently increased the number of appointments from 150 to 180 a week to reduce waiting times further [10800 & 108007].

The further submission appointments booking line is currently resourced to meet the existing demand and this remains under continuous review. The appointment booking line does not current have capability to record information on average waiting times for speaking with advisers and the information is not available in the format requested [108004 &108009].

The information requested on; number of applicants living in Scotland who have been refused (108005) and granted (108006) permission to submit their applications is not available in the format requested. The Home Office does not refuse or grant permission to submit further submissions.

If an individual is eligible at the appointment booking stage, an in-person

appointment will be offered. We will only accept postal applications in exceptional circumstances such as severe illness or disability, as specified within the published further submissions policy which can be accessed at the following:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/502334/Further\\_Submissions\\_API\\_v9\\_0\\_EXT.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/502334/Further_Submissions_API_v9_0_EXT.pdf)

The cost or inconvenience of travel are not acceptable reasons to waive the in-person requirement for further submissions to be lodged. Once an application has been lodged, the case will be decided by a Home Office caseworker [108005 & 108006].

The information requested on; number daily appointments [108008]; average number of calls [108010]; number of telephone advisers employed [108011]; and average number of people employed on the further submission unit [108012], in the last five years is not available in the format requested.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108006/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108005/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108000/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108004/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108007/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108008/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108009/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108010/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108011/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108012/>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour)** [107889] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that children of asylum-seeking families are accommodated appropriately while their parents await a decision on their application for asylum support.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Government is committed to providing safe and secure accommodation while asylum claims are considered and ensures that suitable accommodation is allocated according to the specific needs of all eligible asylum seekers and their dependants. While eligibility for support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is being considered, destitute asylum seekers can be accommodated in Initial Accommodation (“IA”) under section 98 of the 1999 Act. All accommodation, including IA, must meet clear contractual

standards and be appropriate to any particular characteristics and special needs of those that they accommodate, including children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107889/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Rachel Reeves (Labour)** [106324] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what undertakings has G4S made to improve service in relation to accommodation for asylum seekers.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Government demands the highest standards and integrity from our contractors at all times and the Home Office monitor them closely to ensure their accommodation and service meets the requirements set out in the contracts. The Home Office has worked closely with all our Providers, to improve property standards over the lifetime of the contracts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106324/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Rachel Reeves (Labour)** [106325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many of the last 12 months G4S has met its KPIs for providing accommodation for asylum seekers.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Property standards under COMPASS are monitored by three key performance indicators to ensure it is safe, habitable and fit for purpose. Non-conformance occurs when the defects are not rectified within the agreed contractual timescales. Where there is any instance of non-conformance the performance indicators are applied which may lead to a financial deduction.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106325/>

### **Asylum: Ethiopia**

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [108134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Ethiopia submitted applications for asylum in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

### **Asylum: Iran and Ethiopia**

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [108135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum submitted by (a) Iranian and (b) Ethiopian nationals between 2010 and the latest date for which figures are available (i) are pending and (ii) have been (A) approved and (B) refused.

### **Asylum: Iran**

**Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour)** [108136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Iran have submitted applications for asylum in each financial year from 2010-11 to 2016-17.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office publishes annual breakdowns of the number of applications for asylum and the number of applications that were refused at initial decision, broken down by nationality, in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

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

Table as\_01 contains the total number of applications, the number of initial decisions (broken down by decision type), and the number of cases where a decision is pending, in each year. Table as\_01\_q provides quarterly breakdowns of these data. Table as\_06 provides additional information on the outcomes of asylum applications raised in a given year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108134/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108135/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-17/108136/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour)** [107888] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of people detained for immigration purposes.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The Home Office is clear that in tackling immigration abuse we will use alternatives to immigration detention wherever possible. This includes community engagement by our immigration enforcement teams, and the development of the compliant environment to prevent access by illegal migrants to work, services and benefits, designed to encourage compliance and maximise voluntary returns; and enforcing return through same-day removals.

Whilst detention will continue to be used to enforce returns where necessary, depriving someone of their liberty will always be subject to careful consideration and will take account of individual circumstances. Our aim is to focus on developing an immigration enforcement system founded upon compliance and less reliant upon detention.

Consequently, we are reducing the size of the immigration detention estate, with the Home Office transferring The Verne immigration removal centre back to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service from January 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107888/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Catherine West (Labour)** [107901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to pay compensation to victims of torture who have been held in detention centres.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [107902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people identified as victims of torture are still being held in detention centres; and if she will make a statement.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [107903] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent people who have been victims of torture being held in detention centres.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The adults at risk policy, which came into force on 12 September 2016, aims to improve the approach to identifying individuals who may be particularly vulnerable to harm in detention, based on the available evidence, with a clear presumption that they should not be detained. Victims of torture are amongst the groups of individuals who are protected by this policy. Each case is decided on its own merits, on the basis of the available evidence. Vulnerable individuals, including torture victims, are detained only when the immigration control factors – removability, public protection and compliance with immigration law – in their particular case outweigh the evidence of their vulnerability. Individuals are detained only when there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timeframe.

There is no specific centrally recorded data on individuals who are currently being held in immigration removal centres, and who have been identified as victims of torture.

Where individuals are found by the courts to have been detained unlawfully they may be awarded damages as part of those legal proceedings. It is for the courts

to make decisions on these matters.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107901/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107902/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107903/>

### **Human Trafficking**

**Vernon Coaker (Labour)** [108545] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of cross-border police co-operation with (a) French and (b) other European counterparts in countering human trafficking and people smuggling.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** Law enforcement cooperation with French and other European partners is strong and takes place through a variety of activities. We have increased our intelligence sharing and operational cooperation with the French through the establishment of the Joint Centre for Information and Coordination (CCIC) in Calais.

Through the Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce, we have deployed officers from the National Crime Agency, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and Crown Prosecution Service to numerous European countries to work with law enforcement and criminal justice partners on tackling the organised crime groups who facilitate people smuggling. Key to our cooperation with European partners is the intelligence exchange through the European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), which leads Europol on organised immigration crime.

The UK Liaison Bureau at Europol is currently supporting a significant number of cross-border operations on human trafficking focusing on organised crime groups which operate across the UK and other EU countries. In addition to these the UK has used its position as chair of the Europol EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) group on Trafficking in Human Beings to increase the operational impact of our activity across the EU and in key partner countries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108545/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Banks: Immigration Act 2016**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether banks and building societies are able to undertake immigration checks on approximately 70 million United Kingdom bank accounts as required by the Immigration Act 2016.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):** My Lords, effective immigration controls require action to reduce incentives to illegal immigration and deny the practical means to remain here unlawfully. The Immigration Act 2014 prohibited banks and building societies from opening accounts for known illegal migrants. The Immigration Act 2016 goes further and targets existing accounts held by illegal migrants. The Government are continuing to engage with industry ahead of implementation to ensure operational preparedness.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** I thank the Minister. She might remember that, in 2007, 25 million benefit claimants' details were lost. How certain can we be that the 70 million

bank and building society accounts will be safe and secure? Are the Government committed to that safety and security? As for the claimants, how will the Government decide who will be investigated and who will not be investigated? The Minister will know, of course, that seven out of 10 appeals made against immigration decisions are successful. How can we be sure that no real hardship comes because this Act is not acted on in the proper way?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, there were three questions there, but I will deal with the last one, which was about the information not being lost. The Home Office will rigorously check the information before it goes to the banks. The noble Lord talked about vulnerable people being caught by this. It is particularly important that these checks are gone through because many people who have managed to open these sorts of bank accounts may themselves be vulnerable.

**Lord Garel-Jones (Conservative):** My Lords, apart from the effects on immigration, has compliance with the Immigration Act produced any other positive benefits for society?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Compliance with the Immigration Act produces a benefit for society, as many immigrants contribute very well to the economy. I count myself as an immigrant; noble Lords can make a judgment about that.

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** My Lords, regarding the Immigration Act 2014, whose provisions I take it are actually in force, can the Government identify how many individuals have been identified as being in the United Kingdom without permission only through checks by banks and building societies under that Act? Can the Government say how many individuals have been wrongly denied opening an account and for how long, on average, because of these checks?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, it is quite difficult to answer the question of how many people might have been denied access to a bank account under the Immigration Act 2014 because people who are here illegally are part of a changing picture. I do not have to hand information on people who have been wrongly denied access to a bank account, but I can get back to the noble Lord on that topic.

**Lord Boateng (Labour):** My Lords, I fear that there is already evidence of a degree of discrimination on the part of banks and other providers of financial services against people of black and minority ethnic origin. What guidance do the Government intend to issue, or have the regulator issue, to banking and financial service providers to avoid this happening when people are called Boateng, or Patel, or Singh, or some other name which might indicate that they were not born in the United Kingdom but in fact does nothing of the sort because many people with those names are and were?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, individuals are not checked on because their name is Patel, Singh, or any other name which could designate foreign origin. Individuals will only be affected by the provisions if their details have been shared with firms—ie, they are on a list as being illegal immigrants.

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the checks are to be made on known illegal immigrants. How are the banks and the Home Office to know, for instance, whether someone is here having overstayed a visa without reliable and comprehensive exit checks?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, the Home Office has a list of people who are here illegally. Exit checks are only one part of the information we have to hand on who has left this country; the International Passenger Survey is another. Exit checks are therefore only one part of providing details of who is here illegally.

**Baroness Gardner of Parkes (Conservative):** My Lords, like most Members of this House, I am a politically exposed person. Although I downsized my house and cleared everything through all these financial records four years ago, I am now being asked to do

it again although the same money is sitting in the account that I put in there four years ago. Is it because of that, or because I am an immigrant and not British, that I am being subjected to these checks, or is it for both reasons?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Like my noble friend, I am an immigrant and a PEP. I think that my noble friend refers to banks' anti-money laundering obligations. However, I am absolutely sure—I would vouch for her—that she is not an illegal immigrant.

**Lord Flight (Conservative):** My Lords, is the Minister aware that expatriates also have great problems opening bank accounts here, irrespective of whether they are British or otherwise, and that that is quite a problem for people working temporarily overseas?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am certainly aware of the problem that my noble friend raises.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-10-23/debates/731367CA-CB85-4545-8260-B2D8DE2B9BD9/BanksImmigrationAct2016>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigration

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL2078] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the probability of reducing non-UK net migration to the tens of thousands prior to Brexit.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government remains committed to bringing net migration down to sustainable levels. It will take time to achieve this. We will manage reforms to the immigration system responsibly so that it continues to serve the national interest.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-16/HL2078/>

### UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1863] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was received in fees by the Home Office from people using the phonenumber provided by UK Visas and Immigration for people to make inquiries about the status of their visa applications for each month since 1 July.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** UK Visas and Immigration in-country contact centres provide information about the Immigration Rules and the Points Based System requirements via a number of published customer enquiry line numbers. In 2014, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, UKVI changed all 0845 and 0870 prefix helpline numbers to lower call tariff rate 0300 prefix numbers. UKVI do not generate any income from these non-geographic numbers enquiry lines.

The £1.37 per minute call charge is levied on the International phone line service to fund the commercial contract as the UK government believes it is right that those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs of the immigration system. Those who use the services are predominantly from outside the UK. Our web site [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) is the main source of information and advice and is free of charge.

Further details of the financial arrangement in place between the Home Office and SITEL UK Ltd for the provision of Contact Centre Services (UK and International) is not available due to it being commercially sensitive.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1863/>

### **Immigration: Fees and Charges**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1866] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment was made by the Home Office prior to setting fees for (1) the settlement checking service, and (2) the nationality checking service.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not set the fee for the settlement and nationality checking services. These fees are set locally by individual local authorities under their wellbeing provisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1866/>

### **Immigration: Fees and Charges**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1867] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for settlement checking services at local councils was used to fund the delivery of those services in each month since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not set the fee for the settlement checking service. These fees are set locally by individual local authorities under their wellbeing provisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1867/>

### **British Nationality: Fees and Charges**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1868] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for nationality checking services at local councils was used to fund the delivery of those services in each month since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not set the fee for the nationality checking service. These fees are set locally by individual local authorities under their wellbeing provisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1868/>

### **British Nationality: Fees and Charges**

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1869] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees for citizenship set by the Home Office was used to fund the Home Office's assessment of citizenship applications for those applications assessed by local councils using the nationality checking service in each month since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Fees received by the Home Office in respect of Citizenship applications are not used to fund the Nationality Checking Service. This service is offered by Local Authorities who fund its provision from the fees they set.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1869/>

### **British Nationality**

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1870] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for relaunching a Life in the UK Advisory Group to reassess the effectiveness and impact of reforms such as the citizenship test and ceremony a decade after their launch.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Life in the UK Advisory Group provided key recommendations on establishing the current processes for those applying for, and being granted, British Citizenship. We have no plans to relaunch it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1870/>



## British Nationality: Assessments

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1871] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation with naturalised citizens they undertook before launching the current Life in the UK citizenship test.

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1872] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of granting Cornish protected minority status in relation to the Life in the UK citizenship test.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Life in the UK test is based upon our handbook – Life in the UK: A Guide for New Residents – which is available for all applicants to study as part of their test preparation. It was revised substantively in 2013, and took into account feedback received from previous applicants and others who had provided comments on it. The content of the handbook moved away from statistics and related information and put the emphasis on British history, culture and democracy. The test questions were revised at this time to reflect the change in emphasis.

We will consider whether it would be appropriate to make the test available in Cornish as part of the protected minority status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1871/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1872/>

## Immigration

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1873] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of introducing English language proficiency exemptions for applicants for Indefinite Leave to Remain or citizenship because of nationality.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** No assessment has been made of introducing English language proficiency exemptions for applicants because of nationality.

All those applying for indefinite leave to remain under a provision where knowledge of language and life in the UK (KoLL) is a requirement, and all those applying for naturalisation as a British citizen, must meet KoLL. Exemptions to this requirement are primarily based on the applicant's inability to prepare for or sit the test. Where an applicant has a physical or medical condition which would make it unreasonable to expect them to undertake the test, they can be exempted. Exemptions also exist on the basis of age.

There are no exemptions from KoLL due to a person's nationality. A person who is a national of a majority English-speaking country will, however, be able to use this to demonstrate that they meet the English language part of the KoLL requirement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1873/>

## British Nationality: Assessments

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1747] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect that passing the Life in the UK citizenship test has in promoting British values and improving integration.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1748] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they have undertaken with any of the more than two million new citizens since the Life in the UK citizenship test was first used in 2005 to ensure that the test is a satisfactory measure of the possession of knowledge of life in the UK sufficient for citizenship.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1749] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the Life in the UK citizenship test prior to setting the pass rate for that test.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1750] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of UK nationals' knowledge of life in the UK for the current Life in the UK citizenship test.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Life in the UK test is based upon our handbook – Life in the UK: A Guide for New Residents – which is available for all applicants to study as part of their test preparation. It was revised substantively in 2013, and took into account feedback received from previous applicants and others who had provided comments on it. The content of the handbook moved away from statistics and related information and put the emphasis on British history, culture and democracy. The test questions were revised at this time to reflect the change in emphasis.

The test is designed to allow an applicant to demonstrate that they share key knowledge with the broader population, and possess an understanding of the expectations of an integrated migrant.

We worked with the test provider to set the level and format of the test, ensuring the consistency of tests between applicants. We continue to review the questions and tests with the provider.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1747/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1748/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1749/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1750/>

### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1793] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many attempts to sit the Life in the UK citizenship test have been made in each month since 1 January 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This information is published quarterly here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

On the tab: Temporary and Permanent Migration Data

The monthly breakdown is as follows (in line with the most recent published data).

#### **Test Attempts : Life in the UK Test by Year and Month**

**1st January 2010 to 30th June 2017**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	12,971	14,828	17,768	15,746	15,538	15,655	15,762	14,451	14,819	16,408	16,133	13,483
2011	16,304	17,588	21,574	16,826	16,529	15,543	13,848	12,656	12,836	13,331	13,112	10,687
2012	13,284	13,562	15,774	11,231	11,896	12,227	12,868	14,613	14,052	12,316	11,347	8,686
2013	11,100	15,737	23,011	7,426	8,691	10,249	10,443	12,267	15,324	17,360	11,886	8,963
2014	13,525	12,958	16,561	14,403	15,483	14,673	13,781	14,139	11,753	13,337	13,440	11,686
2015	14,317	13,732	15,439	14,588	15,530	14,904	14,796	14,845	17,285	17,760	12,089	9,896
2016	10,792	11,757	14,350	13,076	10,653	10,291	12,002	11,971	10,540	8,554	10,637	8,881
2017	9,679	11,189	14,155	11,329	10,337	9,257						

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1793/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1794] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals passed the Life in the UK citizenship test in each month since 1 January 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This information is published quarterly here:

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

The monthly breakdown is as follows (in line with the most recent published data):

#### Test Passes : Life in the UK Test by Year and Month 1st January 2010 to 30th June 2017

Calendar Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2010	10,054	11,013	13,030	11,710	11,412	11,383	11,629	10,682	10,839	11,871	11,434	9,586
2011	11,881	12,970	15,839	12,480	12,316	11,898	11,036	10,371	10,499	10,773	10,612	8,697
2012	11,082	11,444	13,264	9,470	10,111	10,485	11,161	12,657	12,100	10,509	9,699	7,438
2013	9,580	13,871	19,734	5,207	6,476	7,751	7,794	9,208	11,262	12,126	8,236	5,880
2014	8,664	8,234	10,559	8,572	9,170	8,694	8,088	8,541	7,204	8,109	8,174	6,950
2015	8,844	8,710	9,625	8,790	9,499	9,085	9,139	9,019	10,471	10,112	7,151	6,242
2016	6,940	7,658	9,322	8,416	6,556	6,533	8,361	8,037	6,814	5,430	6,587	5,560
2017												

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1794/>

### British Nationality: Ceremonies

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1840] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for citizenship ceremonies was used to fund their delivery of ceremonies in each month since 2010.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1841] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for citizenship ceremonies was used to fund other border, immigration, and citizenship services in each month since 2010.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1842] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for citizenship ceremonies was not used to fund border, immigration, or citizenship services in each month since 2010.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1843] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of fees set by the Home Office for citizenship ceremonies was retained by (1) local councils, and (2) the Home Office, in each month since 2010.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1844] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment was made by the Home Office prior to setting the fee for citizenship ceremonies.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** A citizenship ceremony fee has been payable since January 2004. The Home Office sets the fee in consultation with Local Authorities at a level that is designed to recover cost of conducting citizenship ceremonies. The current fee of £80 reflects the estimated average costs to local authorities across the UK.

All income from the citizenship ceremony fee is retained by the local authorities and none is used to fund other border, immigration, or citizenship service costs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1840/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1841/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1842/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1843/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1844/>

### **British Nationality: Ceremonies**

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1845] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of citizenship ceremonies on promoting British values and improving integration.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Individuals who are granted British citizenship have already demonstrated their ongoing commitment to the UK by satisfying the statutory requirements for naturalisation or registration. The citizenship ceremony marks that transition to British citizenship and allows the new citizen to pledge their allegiance to the Queen and loyalty to the UK, underlining what it means to become a British citizen. Anecdotal evidence from those attending ceremonies shows that they regard these as significant and symbolic events.

We have no plans to formally evaluate the impact of the ceremony.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1845/>

### **British Nationality: Ceremonies**

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour)** [HL1899] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultation they have undertaken with any of the more than two million new citizens since citizenship ceremonies were first introduced to ensure that those ceremonies promote British values and improve integration.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Individuals who are granted British citizenship have already demonstrated their ongoing commitment to the UK by satisfying the statutory requirements for naturalisation or registration. The citizenship ceremony marks that transition to British citizenship and allows the new citizen to pledge their allegiance to the Queen and loyalty to the UK, underlining what it means to become a British citizen. Anecdotal evidence from those attending ceremonies shows that they regard these as significant and symbolic events.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1899/>

### **British Nationality: EU Nationals**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1864] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for British citizenship they received from EU nationals in each month since 2010.

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1865] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many successful applications for British citizenship there were from EU nationals in each month since 2010.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The information requested is published on a quarterly basis and given in the tables below.

<b>British citizenship applications (Naturalisation and Registration) by nationality - EU nationals</b>					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Calendar Year Total
2010	2,006	2,470	2,134	2,378	8,988

2011	2,531	2,131	1,893	2,288	8,843
2012	2,816	2,416	2,377	2,829	10,438
2013	3,889	4,454	5,162	8,171	21,676
2014	2,803	2,838	2,716	3,214	11,571
2015	3,989	3,704	4,235	5,418	17,346
2016	2,978	3,240	4,130	5,112	15,460
2017	9,547	9,713			

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics April to June 2017, table cz\_01\_q\_a. By recorded date of application.

<b>British citizenship grants (Naturalisation and Registration) grants by previous nationality- EU nationals</b>					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Calendar Year Total
2010	1,834	2,211	2,339	2,038	8,422
2011	2,145	1,529	1,996	1,744	7,414
2012	2,305	2,151	2,881	3,210	10,547
2013	3,432	4,524	3,589	6,104	17,649
2014	5,139	2,352	872	1,711	10,074
2015	5,796	1,296	2,154	3,776	13,022
2016	6,523	2,998	3,637	4,042	17,200
2017	5,046	5,578			

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics April to June 2017, table cz\_06\_q. By recorded date of decision.

Note grants made may relate to applications made in a previous quarter

Statistics on applications and grants of UK citizenship by nationality is published in the Home Office 'Immigration Statistics' Citizenship tables cz\_01\_q\_a and table cz\_06\_q , available on the .GOV.UK website and via the library of the House.

[Table - HL1864/HL1865](#) (Excel SpreadSheet, 18.79 KB)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1864/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1865/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour)** [HL1918] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the use of the Public statement: relationship no longer subsisting forms.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** No formal assessment has been made of the use of the Public Statement: Relationship No Longer Subsisting Forms.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1918/>

### **Entry Clearances: Higher Education**

**Lord Hunt of Chesterton (Labour)** [HL1820] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy regarding the admission of foreign academics to the UK, the provision of evidence in cases where foreign academics are denied entry to the UK, and whether there has been a decline in the numbers of foreign academics visiting the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** This Government recognises the value that foreign academics bring to the country. There are a number of flexible routes that provide for a range of activities that are permitted to be undertaken in

the UK.

The Immigration Rules set out the requirements of these routes. Academic visitors must satisfy the decision maker that they are genuine visitors who will leave the UK at the end of their visit, intend to undertake a permitted activity, will not undertake prohibited activities and have sufficient funds to cover the reasonable costs of the visit. Clear guidance is available online that explains the requirements and the evidence that an applicant may wish to provide in support of their application.

Due to the range of activities visitors to the UK can undertake whilst in the UK, the Home Office does not publish statistics of the sub-sets of visitors.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1820/>

### **Entry Clearances: Overseas Students**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL2077] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of official figures published in August showing that the number of international students overstaying their visas was lower than previously estimated by the ONS, what changes have been made to the quarterly net migration statistics.

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

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has not produced estimates on the numbers of international students overstaying their visas. The difference between immigration for study and emigration of former student immigrants has been around 100,000 since 2012, but this is not a measure of students who overstay their visas. However, it is often quoted as such, and as a result, a programme of further work was undertaken to assess the quality of these data.

On 24 August, ONS published a detailed report on non-EU international student migration<sup>1</sup>. This report showed that estimates of students emigrating after their studies derived solely from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) are likely to be an underestimate. The IPS collects information on migration intentions and the report shows that international students are a particular group of migrants who may change their intentions. This is evident from new Exit Checks data, collected by the Home Office from April 2015, and a separate survey of international graduating students.

No changes to the total net migration statistics have been made. The work doesn't provide evidence of an issue with overall net migration figures for two reasons, because:

- (a) Students emigrating might have stated their original reason for migration under the work category or other categories; and
- (b) A tendency for a particular group of migrants to change their intentions in one way may be offset by a different group of migrants with a tendency to change their intentions in the opposite way. For example, people emigrating after work or British emigrants returning earlier than expected.

While we make some adjustments to account for changes in intentions, we recognise that these need to be reviewed in light of evidence from administrative data sources.

We set out an ambitious programme of work to develop migration statistics using the powers available under the Digital Economy Act (2017). We published a timetable to improve migration statistics which will ensure that in 2019 we have a richer set of statistics. These will provide insight not just on net migration flows but more detail on how long migrants have been here, which areas of the country they are in and whether they are students, working, or in the UK for other reasons, and what this means for our society. Along the way we will publish insights from these data to ensure that the public and policy-makers have the best information we can provide as major decisions are taken in this important policy area.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/whats happeningwithinternationalstudentmigration/2017-08-24>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-16/HL2077/>

### **Immigration**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL1910] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to put in place measures to help individuals for whom the cost of an immigration DNA test is too expensive, thereby preventing them from being reunited with family members.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Those applying for family reunion are not required to provide DNA evidence to prove their family relationship and can rely on other evidence to support their application. Our guidance on considering family reunion applications highlights the challenges that applicants may face in obtaining documents to support their application and makes clear the types of evidence that can be provided.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1910/>

### **Middle East: Refugees**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL1805] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment, if any, they have made of the UNHCR's management of the relocation of refugees from Syria and Iraq to the UK under various schemes; and, in the light of the use of Official Development Assistance to fund the costs of refugee resettlement, whether they have any plans to make this assessment public.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** UNHCR is the internationally recognised and mandated agency for dealing with refugees. It has a global presence and 65 years' experience in handling refugee crises. UNHCR is uniquely placed to help the UK authorities to identify and process vulnerable refugees who would benefit from resettlement in this country.

The UK works in close partnership with UNHCR to resettle refugees from Iraq and Syria and we monitor the delivery of our schemes on an ongoing basis.

The National Audit Office, Public Accounts Committee, International Development Committee and Home Affairs Committee have all considered the UK's Resettlement Programme under their respective remits and their findings have been made available publicly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1805/>

### **Refugees: Middle East**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL1806] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UNHCR's consideration of religious identity in their criteria for the referral of refugees from Iraq and Syria for resettlement in the UK under various schemes.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** With regards to resettlement, the UK works according to the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality- which means that we do not take into consideration the ethno-religious origins of people requiring assistance as we resettle solely on the basis of needs, identified by UNHCR.

UNHCR is the internationally recognised and mandated agency for dealing with refugees. It has a global presence and 65 years' experience in handling refugee crises. UNHCR is uniquely placed to help the UK authorities to identify and process vulnerable refugees who would benefit from resettlement in this country.

The seven vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR are Legal and or Physical

Protection Needs; Survivors of Torture and/or Violence; Medical Needs; Women and Girls at Risk; Family Reunification; Children and Adolescents at Risk and Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions. Individuals are not specifically identified for resettlement based on their religion or ethnicity but members of minority communities may well meet one of the other vulnerability criteria set out by UNHCR.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1806/>

### **Refugees: Middle East**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL1807] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of resettlement programmes for refugees from Iraq and Syria in countries such as Canada and Australia; and whether any lessons can be learned from these programmes in relation to refugees who have experienced religious persecution.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK works closely with its international resettlement partners, including Australia and Canada to further international understanding and expertise on resettlement programming. Through international forums such as the Syria Core Group, facilitated by UNHCR, and the Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement, the UK works alongside other resettlement partners to address a multitude of policy and procedural matters with the aim of improving the way we resettle refugees globally.

The seven vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR are Legal and or Physical Protection Needs; Survivors of Torture and/or Violence; Medical Needs; Women and Girls at Risk; Family Reunification; Children and Adolescents at Risk and Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions. Individuals are not specifically identified for resettlement based on their religion or ethnicity but members of minority communities may well meet one of the other vulnerability criteria set out by UNHCR.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1807/>

### **Refugees: Syria**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL1808] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the UNHCR's processes for screening refugees from Syria; and whether these processes are sufficiently robust to prevent Daesh fighters from being selected for resettlement.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We take security extremely seriously in cases referred to us for resettlement, working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). When potential cases are submitted by the UNHCR for consideration they are screened and considered for suitability for entry to the UK: we retain the right to reject individuals on security, war crimes or other grounds.

The UNHCR has its own robust identification processes in place. This includes the taking of biometrics, gathering documentary evidence and conducting interviews. Additionally we are continually considering how we can enhance the comprehensive security arrangements we already have in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-10/HL1808/>

### **Asylum**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1783] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of asylum applications there will be once the UK is no longer a party to the Dublin Regulation III after leaving the EU.



### Asylum: Deportation

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL1784] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of deportations of unsuccessful applicants for asylum there will be once the UK has left the EU.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Dublin III Regulation is only one aspect of the UK's asylum and returns system, and most asylum seekers in the UK do not enter or leave the UK as part of the Dublin process.

As the drivers of migration are wide-ranging, complex, and extend far beyond our participation in the Dublin III Regulation, the UK Government has not modelled the likely impact of our participation in the Dublin III Regulation lapsing on exit from the EU. The latest statistics on numbers entering the UK and being returned to participating Member States through the Dublin process can be found here: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin\\_statistics\\_on\\_countries\\_responsible\\_for\\_asylum\\_application](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1783/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-09/HL1784/>

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL1906] To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions the Home Office has questioned the reported age of an asylum-seeking minor in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Statistics on age disputes are published on a quarterly basis as part of the Immigration Statistics release. They can be found on Asy 10 at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/638599/asylum3-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638599/asylum3-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods)

The breakdown for year 2016 is as follows:

Year	Geographical region	Country of nationality	Age disputes raised	Age disputes resolved	Age disputes resolved: under 18 when	Age disputes resolved: 18+ when
					raised	raised
2016	Total	Total	928	945	370	575

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1906/>

### Asylum: Employment

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL1908] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to extend the right of asylum-seekers to work beyond the jobs listed in the Shortage Occupation List.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have no plans to extend asylum seekers' right to work beyond the jobs listed in the Shortage Occupation List for those whose claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own. This policy is designed to prioritise access to employment for British Citizens and those lawfully resident here, including refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1908/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL1909] To ask Her Majesty's

Government by whom, and when, the sum of £36.95 for asylum seekers' cash support was determined; and whether they have any plans to increase it.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum seekers and their dependants who would otherwise be destitute are provided with a cash allowance and accommodation if they need it. The Home Office regularly reviews the level of the cash allowance to ensure that it is sufficient to cover their essential living needs.

The current allowance of £36.95 per week for each person in a household has been in place since 6 April 2015 and was set following a review that took place earlier that year. There was a further review in 2016 and a report of the outcome was published in March 2017: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>

The report sets out the methodology used in the annual review to assess the adequacy of the allowance, which has been accepted by the courts.

A further review is currently ongoing. Whether there will be any changes in the level of the allowance depends on the outcome of that review.

[Report on review of cash allowances: asylum seekers](#) (PDF Document, 578.28 KB)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1909/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Catherine West (Labour) [457] Indefinite Detention** – That this House is deeply concerned that the UK detains people indefinitely under immigration rules, is the only country in Europe without a time limit on detention and that people can be detained for months and years on end without knowing when they will be released; notes that in the year to June 2017, 27,819 people were detained and that of the nearly 3,000 people detained in June 2017 over half had been locked up for more than 28 days, 271 people for over six months and that 52 per cent of those released from detention were returned to the community; observes that successive reports by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in 2012, the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Migration and Refugees in 2015 and Stephen Shaw in 2016 have demonstrated indefinite detention to have a damaging effect on the health of the people concerned; and calls on the Government urgently to reform immigration detention by introducing a 28-day time limit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/457>

## Press Releases

**Ending restrictions on family reunification: good for refugees, good for host societies**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/ending-restrictions-on-family-reunification-good-for-refugees-good-for-host-societies>

**Migration situation continues to raise fundamental rights concerns**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/migration-situation-continues-raise-fundamental-rights-concerns>

## New Publication

**English language teaching for refugees**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0195/CDP-2017-0195.pdf>

## News

### **UK population set to pass 70 million by mid-2029**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/26/uk-population-set-to-pass-70-million-by-mid-2029>

### **How migration will push Britain's population to 72.9m over next 25 years**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/26/britains-population-will-rise-73m-next-25-years-migration/>

### **Migrant surge will push up population to 70m by 2030**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/migrant-surge-will-push-up-population-to-70m-by-2030-08br2c6fv>

### **Slowing migration takes 2m off UK population estimate**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/slowing-migration-takes-2m-off-uk-population-estimate-v8vmlgbm2>

### **'Hundred migrants a week' reach UK one year after Calais Jungle closure**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-24/news/hundred-migrants-a-week-reach-uk-one-year-after-jungle-closure-th0v0ghns>

### **UK plan to register EU citizens would be illegal, say MEPs**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/oct/23/uk-plan-to-register-eu-citizens-would-be-illegal-say-meps>

### **Call for Scottish third sector to show value and support for EU nationals**

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/media-release/call-for-scottish-third-sector-to-show-value-and-support-for-eu-nationals/>

### **Stop 'inhumane' deportation of husband who cares for disabled British wife, Home Office urged**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-inhumane-deportation-stop-husband-cares-disabled-british-wife-a8024836.html>

### **Home Office letter tells EU citizen to 'go home or go elsewhere'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/29/home-office-eu-citizens-leave-uk-avoid-destitution>

### **Banks join police hunt to stop people traffickers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/banks-join-police-hunt-to-stop-people-traffickers-279rrvktc>

### **Government 'shamelessly attempting' to give itself power to spy on people's details for 'immigration control'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/personal-information-new-laws-uk-home-office-power-migrants-immigration-control-brexit-government-a8017326.html>

### **Migration plan lets Polish plumbers stay for two years**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-25/news/migration-plan-lets-polish-plumbers-stay-two-years-2zsg6vs6l>

### **Refugee-led community groups are unsung heroes at the heart of integration**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/blogs/3262\\_refugee-led\\_community\\_groups\\_are\\_unsung\\_heroes\\_at\\_the\\_heart\\_of\\_integration](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3262_refugee-led_community_groups_are_unsung_heroes_at_the_heart_of_integration)

**More Glasgow refugees and migrants facing destitution than ever**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15624722.More\\_Glasgow\\_refugees\\_and\\_migrants\\_facing\\_destitution\\_than\\_ever/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15624722.More_Glasgow_refugees_and_migrants_facing_destitution_than_ever/)

**UK asylum seekers living in 'squalid, unsafe slum conditions'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/27/uk-asylum-seekers-living-in-squalid-unsafe-slum-conditions>

**Immigration is placing a strain on the NHS: Report reveals children born to Eastern European mothers has fuelled a 14% rise in intensive care admissions**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-5021215/Immigration-15-rise-seriously-ill-children.html>

**Police arrest 11 people in human-trafficking raids across UK**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/human-trafficking-uk-police-illegal-immigration-arrests-nationwide-people-smuggling-modern-slavery-a8021266.html>

**Life as a refugee in the UK was a struggle, but at last we have hope for the future**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/25/life-refugee-uk-struggle-hope-future-iraq>

**'Now we are safe': child refugees thank UK MPs and peers for fresh start**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/24/safe-child-refugees-thank-uk-mps-peers-fresh-start-lord-dubs>

**My daughter will be born stateless – in the UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/24/daughter-stateless-uk-bahrain-torture-human-rights>

**English lessons for refugees can unite communities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-24/news/english-lessons-for-refugees-can-unite-communities-96pxg5png>

TOP

## Community Relations

### News

**I'm proud of Britain's Black History Month. But now it needs a rethink**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/26/proud-black-history-month-30-years-rethink>

**Glasgow mum couldn't find book to explain religious dress to toddler son... so she wrote her own**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/glasgow-mum-couldnt-find-book-11403308>

**'They're my mum and dad, not terrorists'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41722224>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Sikhs: Equality**

**Preet Gill (Labour Co-op)** [108825] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether any public bodies covered by the Race Disparity Audit have collected information on Sikhs as a legally recognised ethnic group since 1983; and what plans he has to fill any gaps in that data.

**Reply from Damian Green:** Public bodies collect data on Sikhs as a religious group, for example through the Census. The Office of National Statistics are currently evaluating the effect of including a Sikh 'tick box' within the ethnic group question for Census 2021. The ONS findings will be published in autumn 2017. The Race Disparity Audit collected data from Government Departments recorded by ethnicity. No data was collated about Sikhs as part of the Audit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108825/>

### Press Release

#### **Supporting local communities**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/supporting-local-communities>

### New Publications

#### **Measurement framework for equality and human rights**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/measurement-framework-interactive.pdf>

#### **Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2016-17**

[http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1739/shrc\\_annual\\_report\\_2017\\_final-signed-off.pdf](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1739/shrc_annual_report_2017_final-signed-off.pdf)

#### **Advocating for Human Rights**

[http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1737/siaa\\_advocating\\_human\\_rights\\_guide.pdf](http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1737/siaa_advocating_human_rights_guide.pdf)

#### **Have prisons become a dangerous place? Disproportionality, safety and mental health in British Prisons**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/PressReleases/Prisons%20report%20v3%20final%20typesetter.pdf>

### News

#### **Don't blame university bosses for racial inequality, Oxford's African and Caribbean Society says**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/10/27/dont-blame-universitybosses-racial-inequality-oxfords-afro-caribbean/>

#### **Black students may need more support at Oxbridge to deal with 'racist academics and racist curricula', suggests campaigner**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/10/26/black-students-may-need-support-oxbridge-deal-racistacademics/>

**Religious schools may split in two to avoid Ofsted punishment after Court of Appeal ruling**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/28/religious-schools-may-split-two-avoid-ofsted-punishment-court/>

**Al-Hijrah Islamic school defies ruling on mixing sexes**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/al-hijrah-islamic-school-defies-ruling-on-mixing-sexes-8mr2fggdx>

**At last, an ad that makes my family feel good to be black and British. Thanks Ikea**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/oct/27/ikea-advert-family-feel-good-black-british-racism-whitewashing>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### **Institutional Racism (Police Scotland)**

**John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports of institutional racism in Police Scotland. (S5T-00720)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson):** Police Scotland's evidence to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing highlights the positive action that it is taking to support our "Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030". For example, the introduction of a new training and mentoring programme for ethnic minority candidates is already helping to ensure that Police Scotland's workforce better reflects the diversity of Scotland's communities: more than 10 per cent of the police recruits who joined Police Scotland in September 2017 came from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Through an internal review of hate crime policy and procedures, Police Scotland is also seeking to improve the recognition, recording and reporting of hate crime and incidents across the country. An extensive and detailed programme of training is in place to support an understanding of and effective response to equality and diversity issues.

As Police Scotland itself acknowledges, there are areas for improvement in how it serves and represents minority ethnic communities, but I do not doubt its determination to do so. I will continue to receive updates on the progress that is being made.

**John Finnie:** The cabinet secretary will be aware that the Macpherson report was seen as a pivotal, watershed moment and that it has always been the holy grail for many to have the police admit to institutional racism. What has given rise to my question today is the report from the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights giving the stark facts that only 1 per cent of officers and police staff come from a BME background, which is relatively unchanged since 2013, that the proportion of BME police officers has never risen above 1 per cent and that BME officers and staff continue to leave in high numbers. Those facts could certainly be construed as being institutional failings. Setting aside the issue of recruitment, can the cabinet secretary advise what he is doing to establish why BME staff leave in higher numbers and what he is doing to ensure that BME staff are retained?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The member raises an important issue. As I outlined in my initial response, Police Scotland has already taken forward work to recruit more individuals from BME communities. Progress has been made on that and the recent intake into Police Scotland demonstrates the significant progress that it has achieved over the course of the work that it has taken forward. Part of

the work that we are doing as a Government is through the race equality framework, which sets out key priorities and themed areas with set goals that the police must take forward to address issues of racial equality. That framework will be taken forward over the next 15 years.

Within that, a number of specific goals have been set for Police Scotland, which include that it be more reflective of the communities that it serves. In its response to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing's call for evidence, Police Scotland set out the actions that it is taking. For example, the positive action team has been established to support greater recruitment of individuals from BME communities into the police service, which has helped to improve uptake, as I mentioned in my earlier remarks. Alongside that, Police Scotland has a mentoring programme in place so that individuals from BME communities who join the police service have someone in the service who can support them.

It is important to recognise—I am sure that the member will acknowledge this—that Police Scotland is putting in place a number of different programmes and initiatives to improve the representation and the retention of individuals from BME communities in the service. That is being driven by the race equality framework, which was published in March last year and which sets out key objectives for Police Scotland to take forward, which it is committed to doing in the work that it has already started.

**John Finnie:** Of course I applaud the work that is being done with recruitment and positive action. Indeed, the CRER was involved in the race equality framework, which will continue to 2030. Of course, we have had laudable statements from senior police officers and, indeed, the staff associations. I note that part of the training that is taking place is about organisational culture, but it is evident that that is not always resulting in positive action on the front line. Again, that has to be seen as an institutional failure. As I am sure the cabinet secretary is aware, the CRER asks for four key improvements in the police service, which are that it be more representative, more responsive, more collaborative and more accessible, particularly with regard to issues of transparency. Those seem entirely reasonable to me. What will the cabinet secretary do to ensure that those improvements are made?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The four key areas that have been outlined by the CRER are all valid and I know that Police Scotland will give active consideration to them. I am updated on a regular basis on the progress that Police Scotland is making against the objectives that have been set out in the race equality framework and I will continue to engage with it on that initiative. I will also be interested in the outcome of the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing's investigation into the issue and in its report on that.

We have been working with Police Scotland to support work that it can take forward within the organisation. For example, we have provided funding to support ethnic minority police employees in the organisation through the Scottish Police Muslim Association. However, Police Scotland is also conducting an internal review of its procedures and the way in which it takes forward matters relating to hate crime. That sits very closely beside the work that we are doing in the review of hate crime legislation in Scotland to ensure that we have the right legislation in place and that Police Scotland has the right type of response in its organisation. Alongside that, Police Scotland is providing training on diversity and equality, which again feeds out of the race equality framework. There are regular updates on the progress that is being made through the race equality framework.

I can assure the member that actions are being taken and that we have a process in place that allows us to measure the progress that Police Scotland is making on those matters. I am regularly updated on the actions that it is taking. I am determined to ensure that Police Scotland is doing everything that it can in this area and I am confident that the executive team in Police Scotland is determined to do that as well.

**Liam Kerr (Conservative):** The cabinet secretary talks of recruitment into the force, but none of the current executive team that he mentioned is from a BME background, and the number of BME officers in senior roles is lower than in the force in general. Does he believe that that is acceptable? Can he outline any steps that he has taken in his time in office to encourage the promotion of BME officers to senior level in Police Scotland and ensure representation at the top level?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The short answer is no—it is not acceptable. Part of the challenge has been that, historically, there has been a poor approach to succession planning in the organisation to make sure that individuals who could progress to senior ranks are encouraged and supported to do so. However, the Scottish Police Authority is now taking proactive action to support that.

I am sure that the member will recognise that, in order to get to the senior ranks in the police service and, in particular, the executive team, officers need to have a considerable level of experience, and it will take time to recruit more individuals into those posts from BME backgrounds—and from the other gender, because at present it is largely dominated by male officers, with the exception of Deputy Chief Constable Rose Fitzpatrick.

The service recognises that it needs to take more action on that, and I have been working with it to encourage it to do so. A key part of that is effective succession planning and making sure that those within the organisation who have the skills and talents to progress are being encouraged to do so. The Scottish Police Authority is working with officers to ensure that that type of succession planning is now being taken forward on an on-going basis.

**Claire Baker (Labour):** The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights raises many important concerns. Will the cabinet secretary commit to reviewing the way in which we record police incidents and to regularly publishing data concerning the engagement of the BME community with Police Scotland, to ensure that there is transparency and greater accountability?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The four key areas that the CRER has highlighted are all valid areas on which Police Scotland can take further action, and it has already committed to engaging on the four points that have been highlighted. However, I also refer the member to the submission that Police Scotland has made to the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing, which highlights the extensive range of work that it is already undertaking in this field. That also has to be recognised.

As I mentioned, there is already an internal review within Police Scotland of both its policy and its procedures around recording and dealing with hate crimes, and that sits very closely with our review of the hate crime legislation in Scotland.

However, where there are areas in which we can strengthen transparency and accountability in this area, I am always prepared to make sure that that action is taken. Of course, we will welcome the final report from the Justice Sub-Committee on Policing and consider what further measures it believes are necessary to support further progress in the area.

**Fulton MacGregor (SNP):** Can the cabinet secretary provide any detail on how much confidence the Scottish public—across all sections—have in their local police force?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** Confidence in policing in Scotland in general is high. The most recent data that we have is from the Scottish crime and justice survey, which found that the majority of adults had confidence in the police force in Scotland. Additional developmental analysis, which was based on the combination of data from three large household surveys, found that people from ethnic minorities reported a higher level of confidence in policing in their local area.

Overall, confidence in the police service in Scotland remains high, but Police Scotland has also recognised that we need to take further action to make sure that it is engaging effectively with minority communities, and that is a key part of



the developmental and improvement work that it has already started to take forward.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11143&i=101604#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Antisemitism

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [107835] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) published on anti-Semitism since May 2010.

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** Since May 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government has supported two pieces of research into antisemitism. In November 2010 we supported the publication of *Playing the Nazi by Card* by the European Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (EISCA) which looked at antisemitic discourse. In September 2017 we supported alongside the Community Security Trust the Institute of Jewish Policy Research's (JPR) study entitled *Antisemitism in contemporary Great Britain: Key findings from the JPR survey of attitudes towards Jews and Israel* which takes an in-depth look at attitudes towards Jews and Israel among the population of Great Britain, both across society as a whole, and in key subgroups within the population, notably the far-left, the far-right, Christians and Muslims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107835/>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<http://www.brandeiscenter.com/images/uploads/articleuploads/nazicard.pdf>

and

[http://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/JPR.2017.Antisemitism\\_in\\_contemporary\\_Great\\_Britain.pdf](http://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/JPR.2017.Antisemitism_in_contemporary_Great_Britain.pdf)

### World War II: Genocide

**Lisa Cameron (SNP)** [108698] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions she or officials in her Department have had with relevant stakeholders on improving the continuing professional development and understanding of teachers in Holocaust education.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Department officials have regular discussions as part of programme monitoring arrangements, with University College London's Centre for Holocaust Education (CfHE), which receives funding to provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for 1100 teachers in England each year. This programme is jointly funded with the Pears Foundation, and my Rt hon. Friend the Secretary of State is meeting Sir Trevor Pears on 2 November.

In addition to CPD events, the CfHE produces teaching resources and lesson plans which are continually reviewed, improved and expanded. The Beacon Schools element of the programme develops hubs which serve a network of local schools, advocate to other schools for better Holocaust education, develop and share improved schemes of work, and will partner with the CfHE to improve teaching standards.

The Department also funds the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme for pupils and teachers. Officials have regular meetings with the Holocaust Education Trust who run this. The Lessons from Auschwitz Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-19/108698/>

## Employment Appeal Tribunal Decision

### **Religion or Belief Discrimination: Disciplining for quoting Bible passages that caused offence did not constitute indirect discrimination**

The Employment Appeal Tribunal decided that no indirect discrimination occurred when a prison disciplined a prison chapel volunteer for quoting Bible passages that had caused offence to some people in the congregation. A prison investigation had concluded that the quotes, taken in context, were homophobic. The claimant argued that the Employment Tribunal had been mistaken in requiring him to show that there had been group disadvantage, on grounds that this was incompatible with his rights under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Employment Appeal Tribunal rejected this argument, holding that the Equality Act 2010 creates a clear requirement to show group disadvantage in an indirect discrimination claim.

**To read the full decision see**

[http://employmentappeals.decisions.tribunals.gov.uk/Public/Upload/16\\_0304rjfhGWRN.doc](http://employmentappeals.decisions.tribunals.gov.uk/Public/Upload/16_0304rjfhGWRN.doc)

## New Publication

### **Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2017-0294&format=XML&language=EN>

## News

### **Anti-Muslim post retweeted by Tory MP Bob Blackman**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/anti-muslim-post-retweeted-by-tory-mp-bob-blackman-g5sc2tjgn>

### **Six men charged with being in National Action**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41768017>

### **European Parliament takes important step forward to address the fundamental rights of Roma**

<http://www.enar-eu.org/European-Parliament-takes-important-step-forward-to-address-the-fundamental>

### **Party's over for neo-Nazis as election bosses block attempt to form new political group**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/partys-over-neo-nazis-election-11391061>

### **Nazi forums closed as Reddit purges 'violent content'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-41760968>

### **Police racism concerns cannot be simply ignored**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/chris-marshall-police-racism-concerns-cannot-be-simply-ignored-1-4595487>

### **Black students may need more support at Oxbridge to deal with 'racist academics and racist curricula', suggests campaigner**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/10/26/black-students-may-need-support-oxbridge-deal-racistacademics/>

### **Kellogg's to redesign 'racist' cereal box after online row**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/26/kelloggs-redesign-racist-cereal-box-online-row/>

## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Press Releases**

#### **Scottish Parliament Lobbying Register**

The Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 will be fully commenced on 12 March 2018, after which date certain face-to-face meetings with MSPs, Scottish Government's Ministers, Special Advisers, and Permanent Secretary must be registered on the Scottish Lobbying Register website.

A four month familiarisation period is now underway to allow people to use and explore the Lobbying Register website. Guidance on deciding whether organisations should register, and on how to use the system, is available on the "Help" page of the new website, and users can choose to submit practice registration and information returns.

**For more information see**

<https://www.lobbying.scot/SPS/>

#### **First Minister letter to Prime Minister on EU withdrawal**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/first-minister-letter-to-prime-minister-on-eu-withdrawal>

#### **Scotland and the EU - UK Negotiations on EU Exit**

<https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/scotland-and-the-eu-uk-negotiations-on-eu-exit>

#### **More choice for communities**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/more-choice-for-communities>

#### **Population figures**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/population-figures>

#### **Scotland's population is projected to increase and age**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/scotlands-population-is-projected-to-increase-and-age>

### **New Publications**

#### **Projected Population of Scotland (2016-based) National population projections by sex and age, with UK comparisons**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-projections/2016-based-scot/pop-proj-2016-scot-nat-pop-pro-pub.pdf>

#### **Infographic: Projected Population of Scotland**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/nrs-visual/prog-pop-16/pop-proj-2016-scot-nat-pop-pro-info.pdf>

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions**

**Laura Smith (Labour)** [108493] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many prosecutions for female genital mutilation there have been in the last 30 years.

**Reply from Phillip Lee:** There has been one prosecution which was under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108493/>

#### **Faith Schools: Islam**

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Warner (Crossbench)** [HL1922] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Nash on 13 September (HL1358 and HL1359), what concerns caused the then Prime Minister in 2015 to consider the need to regulate madrassahs; and how a local authority is to establish whether children may be at risk in such settings if they have no powers of entry or intervention in such establishments.

**Lord Warner (Crossbench)** [HL1923] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many madrassahs there are in England; (2) how many hours a week children may spend in such institutions; (3) whether attendance at a madrassah during school hours can justify a child's non-attendance at school; and (4) whether parents who send children to a madrassah can combine this with home tuition to avoid normal school attendance.

**Lord Warner (Crossbench)** [HL1924] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimates they have made of the number of children attending madrassahs; and whether this number is increasing.

#### **Out-of-school Education**

**Lord Warner (Crossbench)** [HL1925] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Nash on 13 September (HL1358 and HL1359), whether they intend to publish a summary of the evidence they have received following their call for evidence on a possible new system of oversight for out-of-school education settings; and whether this evidence suggests concern about the impact of madrassahs on children's welfare.

#### **Education: National Identity**

**Lord Warner (Crossbench)** [HL1926] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take following the recent concerns expressed by the Head of Ofsted about children being brought up in environments actively hostile to British values; and whether they consider that those concerns apply both to registered and unregistered schools, and other educational settings such as madrassahs.

**Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The Government published a Counter Extremism Strategy in 2015, which set out plans to introduce a new system of oversight for out-of-school education settings – such as supplementary schools, tuition centres and madrassahs. The Strategy recognised that most of these settings can provide useful support to children, but also noted that the lack of oversight of these settings, and limited information about the practices within them, illustrating the risks of them being exploited by extremists.

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

can, of course, investigate any reports that a crime has been committed in an out-of-school education setting.

National statistics are not held on the number of madrassahs or children attending them but we are working closely with local councils to improve our understanding of the range of out-of-school education settings.

Children are not required to attend school. Parents have a right to educate their children at home but must provide a suitable full-time education if the child is of compulsory school age. Parents who home educate must ensure that their child receives efficient, full-time education suitable to the child's age, ability and aptitude, and any special educational needs the child may have. They are not, however, required to, observe school hours, days or terms.

Parents are not obliged to provide the teaching themselves and may access services from other providers, including out-of-school education settings, but the responsibility for ensuring that their child receives a suitable education and is properly safeguarded, remains with them.

The Department ran a call for evidence on out-of-school education settings, inviting interested education providers, local councils, other organisations and individuals to help us broaden our evidence base. We will publish our analysis of responses in due course.

All schools have a duty to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. We are supporting schools to meet their obligations to protect pupils from radicalisation, and to help them build pupils' resilience to extremism through knowledge and critical skills so they can question information, weigh arguments, and make reasoned judgments.

Ofsted have strengthened their inspection frameworks so that inspectors assess how well schools protect pupils from the risks of extremism and radicalisation, and promote fundamental British values.

We work closely with Ofsted to investigate allegations of extremism in schools and take appropriate action to ensure pupils are safeguarded from extremist and intolerant views.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1922/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1923/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1924/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1925/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1926/>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

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

and

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

TOP

## Other News

**Lancashire council votes to ban schools from serving non-stunned halal meat**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/26/lancashire-council-to-vote-on-non-stunned-halal-meat-ban>

**Halal meat row as Lancashire council becomes first to ban unstunned meat from all school meals**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/26/halal-meat-row-lancashire-council-becomes-first-ban-unstunned/>

**Lancashire council bans schools from serving pupils non-stunned halal meat**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/lancashire-council-halal-meat-non-stunned-ban-schools-pupils-animal-welfare-muslims-islam-a8023026.html>

**As a vegan Muslim, Lancashire's move to ban halal meat is misguided and divisive**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/vegan-muslim-lancashire-county-council-halal-meat-banned-cruelty-environment-tofu-a8025011.html>

**Lancashire bans 'abhorrent' unstunned halal meat in schools**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-27/news/lancashire-bans-abhorrent-unstunned-halal-meat-in-schools-v7s9pjnsm>

**Council faces Muslim boycott of school meals after banning 'abhorrent' halal beef and lamb from unstunned animals**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5023145/Council-faces-Muslim-boycott-school-meals-halal-row.html>

TOP

## 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>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11144&i=101613#ScotParlOR>

### 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>

[TOP](#)

## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

### **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>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/2018**

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

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

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

**For more information see**

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

**For an application form see**

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

TOP



**\*\* *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!***

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org)

**\*\* *this week!***

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org)

**\*\* *this week!***

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Hate Crime and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting. For information see [https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18\\_wsrec.pdf](https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf) or contact Rabeea [rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk](mailto: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/yaadfnc2>

### **Engaging Hard to Reach Groups**

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tq2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:merh@in-conference.org.uk) / 0131 336 4203.

TOP

## 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](http://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](http://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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.