

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 3 September 2018.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Immigration Status (Discrimination and Prejudice)

**Patrick Harvie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle discrimination and prejudice based on immigration status. (S5O-02279)

**Reply from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning (Kevin Stewart):** This month, we launched the we are Scotland campaign, which challenges attitudes on migration. I outlined in my answer to Annie Wells's question the range of steps that we are taking to tackle hate crime.

In addition, at the end of last year, we published the "New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-2022", which supports the vision of a welcoming Scotland, and our "A Fairer Scotland for All: Race Equality Action Plan 2017-21", which is focused on ensuring better outcomes for ethnic minorities in Scotland. We are clear that any form of discrimination or prejudice is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

**Patrick Harvie:** In answer to the previous question, the minister mentioned the Bracadale review. In paragraphs 4.72 to 4.76 of “Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland: Final Report” it is concluded that respondents had a clear view that there is offending behaviour “involving hostility” on the basis of immigration status and that there is “no central collection of data in relation to the immigration status of victims of crime.”

The review did not recommend a new statutory aggravation. I can understand why, as it said that that is already covered. Does the minister agree that we are not doing enough if we fail to collect the data on the immigration status of people who are victims of crime that is motivated by prejudice based on that status? Short of introducing a new aggravation, what can the Government do to address that?

Reply from **Kevin Stewart:** I will not pre-empt the Government’s response to Lord Bracadale’s recommendations. I am sure that the Cabinet Secretary for Justice will look at the issue in some depth and will report back to Parliament on our exact response.

I reiterate that the Government has zero tolerance for any hate crime. A lot of what is going on out there is being fuelled by the United Kingdom Government’s policies, including the “hostile environment” policy. It is being fuelled even further by some so-called newspapers, which try to blame migrants for everything, when those people have come to our country and have done extremely well in our society by earning, living among us and adding value in our cosmopolitan Scotland. Long may that continue.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11628&i=105381#ScotParlOR>

*The Integration Strategy referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530097.pdf>

*The Bracadale Review, referred to above, can be read at*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535892.pdf>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Human Trafficking

**S5W-17265 Margaret Mitchell (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been each year under the Human Trafficking (Scotland) Act 2015, broken down by the number of (i) adult and (ii) child victims.

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** Our records show there were no prosecutions under the Human Trafficking (Scotland) Act 2015 for the financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17. Information relating to the financial year 2017-18 will not be available until early 2019.

Please note that our database contains information on criminal proceedings that have been concluded in Scottish courts.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-17265>

## UK Parliament Motion to Regret

**Immigration (Guidance on Detention of Vulnerable Persons) Regulations and the Detention Centre (Amendment) Rules 2018**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-27/debates/29ABB9B8-5AAC-48E1-AB4C-94FEB270CA24/Immigration\(GuidanceOnDetentionOfVulnerablePersons\)RegulationsAndTheDetentionCentre\(Amendment\)Rules2018](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-27/debates/29ABB9B8-5AAC-48E1-AB4C-94FEB270CA24/Immigration(GuidanceOnDetentionOfVulnerablePersons)RegulationsAndTheDetentionCentre(Amendment)Rules2018)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Immigration

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156496] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to publish a White Paper on immigration before the summer recess; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system which will begin from 2021, and will set out initial plans later this year. We have asked the independent Migration Advisory committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the EU

The Government will have sufficient time to take account of the MAC's advice when making any final decisions about our future immigration system, which would be implemented from 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156496/>

### Immigration: Taxation

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156499] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Immigration of 4 June 2018, Official Report, column 5, how many of the tax discrepancies penalised under paragraph 322(5) of the immigration rules have been in the tens of thousands of pounds; and at what level of discrepancy paragraph 322(5) can be applied.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156500] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for the completion of his Department's review of the use of paragraph 322(5); and if he will publish the findings of that review.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156501] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the terms of reference are for his Department's review of the use of paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his letter to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, published on 29 May 2018, whether his Department has contacted any of the 18 people who were refused Indefinite Leave to Remain; and whether his Department's review of paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules will consider the accuracy of decisions on those cases.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156503] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his letter to the chair of the Home Affairs Committee, published on 29 May 2018, how many of the 189 appeals against a refusal on paragraph 322(5) grounds were successful.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Our review of applications by Tier 1 (General) migrants who were refused under paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules is ongoing

As I stated in my letter to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee of 21 June, the first stage of the review was concluded by the end of May and I expect the remaining cases to be reviewed within the next few weeks. I will report the full findings of the review to the Committee as soon as possible thereafter

I also stated in that letter that, of the initial 281 cases reviewed, 249 applicants amended their HMRC records by more than £10,000. In many of the remaining cases, though the differences were less than £10,000, they were nevertheless substantial

There is no specific threshold which would lead to a refusal under paragraph 322(5). Caseworkers consider all the available evidence in the round when assessing an applicant's character and conduct

Figures, particularly those in relation to legal challenges (which require a manual trawl of individual case records) are subject to change while the review is ongoing.

We will therefore not be providing a breakdown or a running commentary, and it would be inappropriate to do so in relation to current litigation. We will provide more detailed information in relation to legal challenges in our final report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156499/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156500/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156501/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156502/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156503/>

*The Minister's oral contribution referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-04/debates/E618A10A-D6B2-4A3C-BE47-9D5B0700B897/SettledStatus#contribution-CE17E6BF-6319-4919-95B2-E46B83AD5776>

### **UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services**

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [154761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason there is no customer helpline number available to enable applicants to contact their UK Visas and Immigration caseworkers directly.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** UKVI customer helplines are in place to provide information and direct customers, who are mostly potential applicants, to the most appropriate and relevant part of the GOV.UK website which provides guidance and instructions. This covers but is not limited to: -

- the range of visas UKV&I offers
- the process, cost and requirements to apply and current processing timescales relevant to the visa application and
- the immigration rules

Our customer service delivery model ensures that our customer helpline advisors can handle customer enquiries thus enabling our case working teams to process applications.

Emergency or urgent customer enquiries are regularly escalated via the customer helpline to the appropriate part of our case working operations for resolution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-18/154761/>

### **Immigration**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [155908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons there are differences in the length of time that it takes to process indefinite leave to remain applications and applications for other forms of leave to remain.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain and other forms of leave to remain are subject to a maximum waiting time, the specific time for each route is published on gov.uk. The exact time taken to decide an individual case will depend on the specific circumstances of that case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155908/>

### **Immigration: Biometrics**

**Steve Reed (Labour Co-op)** [156432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home



Department, what the average waiting time is for issuing biometric residence permits in the most recent period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The average waiting time for issuing Biometric Residence Permits (BRP) is not specifically included in statistics published by the Home Office. However, the overall processing times for applications made to UKVI are published.

Published information can be found at

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release)

Once the decision to grant leave is made a request to personalise the BRP is made electronically to Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) who produce the personalised BRP on behalf of UKVI. They have a service level to personalise 90% of BRPs within one working day of receipt and the remaining 10% within two working days of receipt. DVLA currently personalise 100% of cards within one working day of receipt.

Once produced, the card is either delivered to the customer or made available for collection by the customer from the Post Office depending upon whether the leave application was made inside or outside the UK. For those cards requiring delivery in the UK, the card is collected by from DVLA by DX. DX has a service level agreement to attempt to deliver 100% of BRPs within 48 hours of receipt from DVLA. They currently meet this service standard. For those cards to be collected from the Post Office, they are made available for collection within 10 days of the customer's

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156432/>

### **Immigration: Biometrics**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [156608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was for replacement biometric cards to be issued in each of the last 24 months.

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

Published service standards for all Indefinite Leave to Remain applications are to complete 100% of straightforward applications within six months. For those applying for temporary leave in the UK, including replacement Biometric Residents Permits (BRPs), the published service standards are to complete straight forward applications within 8 weeks, UKVI service standards can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about-our-services>.

The average waiting time for issuing Biometric Residence Permits Replacement Card applications (BRP RC) is not specifically included in statistics published by the Home Office. However, the overall processing times for applications made to UKVI are published.

Published information can be found at

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release)

Where an application is defined as non-straightforward, due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-22/156608/>

### **Immigration**

**Darren Jones (Labour)** [155917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason people with indefinite leave to remain do not receive (a)

biometric cards and (b) no time limit status (a) automatically and (b) free of charge.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The cost to process the biometric residence permit has been included as part of the overall application fee since 2008. Individuals seeking to upgrade legacy documents or replace their biometric residence permits are required to cover the cost of processing the application. There are some limited concessions for certain applicants, such as refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155917/>

### Immigration: Appeals

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Richard Burgon (Labour)** [154771] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average waiting time is for an immigration tribunal appeal hearing.

**Richard Burgon (Labour)** [154772] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average waiting time was for an immigration tribunal appeal hearing in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Lucy Frazer:** The average waiting time from the receipt of an appeal to the hearing in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) January 2018 to March 2018 was 37 weeks. The average waiting times from the receipt of an appeal to the hearing in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) from 2010 to 2017 were as follows:

2010 – 16 weeks

2011 – 14 weeks

2012 – 14 weeks

2013 – 20 weeks

2014 – 25 weeks

2015 – 24 weeks

2016 – 43 weeks

2017 – 45 weeks

Waiting times extended due to a higher level of receipts than forecast. In response HM Courts and Tribunals Service increased the number of judicial sittings to deal with incoming receipts and reduce the live caseload. This has seen the live caseload nearly halve from 64,800 to 36,300 between June 2016 and March 2018 and the average waiting time has now begun to improve from 45 weeks in 2017 to 37 weeks in the period January to March 2018. Further improvement will follow.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-18/154771/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-18/154772/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**John Woodcock (Independent)** [156399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the applications to overturn decisions made under 322 (5) of the Immigration Rules at judicial review have (a) been successful (c) been settled out of court and (c) remain outstanding.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Paragraph 322(5) applies across many categories of the Immigration Rules. This information could only be obtained through a manual trawl of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Such a manual trawl is, however, being carried out for Tier 1 (General) migrants who have been refused under paragraph 322(5), as part of the current review of these cases. This work is ongoing. We will report our findings to the Home Affairs Select Committee once the review is complete.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156399/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [157016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the evidential basis for the 13 June 2018 statement of the Immigration Minister on Immigration Rules: Paragraph 322(5), column 420WH, that no applicants have been successful at judicial review.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The statement was based on the findings available at that time from a manual trawl of individual case records. The trawl is being carried out as part of the current review of Tier 1 (General) migrants who have been refused under paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules. This work is ongoing. We will report our findings to the Home Affairs Select Committee once the review is complete.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-25/157016/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-13/debates/F984D928-FFA0-4FDD-8C20-150DEAEE3C69/ImmigrationRulesParagraph322\(5\)#contribution-94F7F4BE-02FA-44CC-8508-595EC8BDA582](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-13/debates/F984D928-FFA0-4FDD-8C20-150DEAEE3C69/ImmigrationRulesParagraph322(5)#contribution-94F7F4BE-02FA-44CC-8508-595EC8BDA582)

### Visas: Applications

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [154762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to improve processing times for visa applicants.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

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

(then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration'). The large majority of cases are straightforward and are dealt with within Service standards UK Visas and Immigration continually reviews its global visa operation to improve performance and ensure value for money while maintaining excellent customer service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-18/154762/>

### Visas: Married People

**Judith Cummins (Labour)** [154733] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the priority settlement programme for spouse visas.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Priority Visa Service for settlement applications aims to process straightforward cases within 30 working days.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-18/154733/>

### Visas: Married People

**Rosie Duffield (Labour)** [155367] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the equity of the £18,600 minimum income requirement for spousal visas where the potential income of the incoming spouse would enable a family to meet that threshold.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Supreme Court has upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement for spouse visas, which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. The Supreme Court agreed that it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a spouse to settle in the UK and of the community in general.

The earning potential of the non-EEA national partner is no guarantee that they will find work in the UK. Those with an appropriate job offer here can apply under

Tier 2 of the Points Based System. However, in cases in which there are exceptional circumstances which could require entry to the UK to be granted, the applicant and their partner may be permitted to rely on other sources of income, which can include the potential income of the spouse or partner.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155367/>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [155671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Office, what plans he has to ensure that the number of medical professionals entering the UK to work in the NHS in understaffed positions including interventional radiology is maintained when the UK leave the EU.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government values the contribution which migrants makes to the NHS.

We have commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the EU and also on how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy.

The Government will want to ensure that decisions on the long-term arrangements are based on evidence. The commission that we have asked the MAC to undertake is very much part of this. The MAC are due to publish their final report by September 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155671/>

### **Doctors: Migrant Workers**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Thelma Walker (Labour)** [155933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many doctors working in the UK on a Tier 2 visa work in the NHS.

### **Nurses: Migrant Workers**

**Thelma Walker (Labour)** [155934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nurses working in the UK on a Tier 2 visa work in the NHS.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** NHS workforce statistics are the responsibility of NHS Digital and are published at

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-workforce-statistics/nhs-workforce-statistics-june-2017-provisional-statistics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155933/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155934/>

### **Migrant Workers: Doctors**

**Kate Hollern (Labour)** [157175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many overseas doctors with a job offer from the NHS in Blackburn had their application for a work visa rejected due to the cap on Tier 2 visas in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The available information on applications and outcomes (i.e. grants, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed cases) of entry clearance visas in the 'Tier 2 & pre-PBS equivalent' category are published quarterly in 'Immigration Statistics', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi\_01\_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/list-of-tables#visas>.

Neither a breakdown by profession, or applications and outcomes by region of



employment, is available in the published entry clearance visas data.  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-25/157175/>

### **Migrant Workers: Health Professions**

**Laura Smith (Labour)** [155378] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many health professionals have been refused visas in the last 12 months; and what the timetable is for the cap on skilled health workers to be removed.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Information on Tier 2 entry clearance visa applications broken down by outcome (grants, refusals, withdrawals, lapsed) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi\_01\_q at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018>.

On Friday 15 June, the Government laid amended Immigration Rules altering the allocation of places under the Tier 2 (General) cap. This will come into effect on 6 July. The change is intended to be temporary and will be kept under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155378/>

### **Social Services: Migrant Workers**

**Kate Hollern (Labour)** [155816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will review the visa system for social care workers.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Employers who are unable to find suitable resident workers to fill vacancies in the UK for highly skilled social care workers can be recruited under Tier 2, our main immigration work route.

Social care workers working in children's and family services are recognised as being in national shortage and continue to receive first priority within the monthly Tier 2 allocation process

On Friday 15 June, the Government announced changes to the allocation of places within the Tier 2 (General) cap of 20,700. The change, which will ensure that all doctors and all nurses needed in the UK will be able to be recruited to work here without being counted against the cap, will create extra space within the cap for other sectors of the economy, including social care workers who meet the minimum skills requirement. We have asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the full composition of the Shortage Occupation List and continue to keep all immigration routes under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155816/>

### **Veterinary Medicine: Skilled Workers**

**Ronnie Cowan (SNP)** [155851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the lifting of restrictions on the allocation of Tier 2 visas will apply to highly skilled veterinarians.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** On Friday 15 June, the Government announced changes to the allocation of places within the Tier 2 (General) cap of 20,700. The change – which will be implemented through amended Immigration Rules coming into effect on 6 July – will ensure that all doctors and all nurses needed in the UK will be able to be recruited to work here without being counted against the cap. This is intended to be a temporary change which recognises the importance of alleviating pressure on the NHS and which creates extra space within the cap for other sectors of the economy, including highly skilled veterinarians.

In parallel, we have asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the full composition of the Shortage Occupation List.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155851/>

### **Migrant Workers: Life Sciences**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [156325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure the life sciences sector can continue to access highly-skilled overseas workers after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We have commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the EU and also on how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy.

The Government will want to ensure that decisions on the long-term arrangements are based on evidence. The commission that we have asked the MAC to undertake is very much part of this. The MAC are due to publish their final report by September 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156325/>

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Liz McInnes (Labour)** [155305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department used to determine which countries qualified for the recent relaxation of Tier 4 visa requirements for overseas students.

#### **Overseas Students: India**

**Liz McInnes (Labour)** [155306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria were considered by his Department which led to the decision not to relax Tier 4 visa requirements for overseas students from India.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Careful consideration is given to which countries could be added to Appendix H of the Immigration Rules, taking into account objective analysis of a range of factors including the volume of students from a country and their Tier 4 immigration compliance risk.

The list of countries in Appendix H will be regularly updated to reflect the fact that countries' risk profiles change over time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155305/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155306/>

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [156473] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the change in the number of student visas issued to applicants from India between 2010 and 2018.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We welcome Indian students who want to come to the UK to study at our world-leading educational institutions and there remains no limit on the number of genuine international students who can come to study in the UK.

We issue more visas to students from India than any other country, except China and the USA.

In the year ending March 2018, the number of Indian student visas granted increased by 30% to 15,171 from the previous year.

Over 90% of Indian students who apply for a UK visa get one. This is up from 86% in 2014 and 83% the year before that. In addition, the proportion of Indian students coming to study in the UK at a university has increased from around 50% in 2010 to 93% in 2017.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156473/>

### Immigration: Caribbean

**John Spellar (Labour)** [136440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when Ministers of her Department first were made aware of immigration status difficulties affecting the Windrush generation; and what steps they took as a result.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Department was made aware of the immigration status difficulties of individual cases, as flagged by members of the House and the media. The wider issue around the immigration status difficulties affecting some of the Windrush generation has come to the fore, and the attention of Ministers, in recent months. On the 16 April we set up a Taskforce to help those affected get documents they need and on 30 May, the Windrush Scheme came into force. This Scheme is designed to ensure that members of this generation, their children born in the UK and those who arrived in the UK as minors will be able to apply for citizenship, or various other immigration products, free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136440/>

### Immigration: Caribbean

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Neil Gray (SNP)** [136669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date a Minister in her Department approved the destruction of the Windrush landing cards.

**Neil Gray (SNP)** [136670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date the Windrush landing cards were destroyed.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** No decision was taken to destroy 'Windrush migrant' information specifically and records were not categorised as being related to a 'Windrush migrant' or the 'Windrush generation'. Any Windrush papers would have been destroyed in line with the retention and disposal periods set for the wider records collections in which they were located.

In regards to landing cards specifically, although there was provision in the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962 to make a requirement for Commonwealth citizens to complete landing cards, this was never implemented. Landing cards were not required for the vast majority of nationals of Independent Commonwealth Countries until the implementation of the Immigration Act 1971. A very small number of cards were completed by Immigration officers for small cohorts of these nationals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136669/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136670/>

### Windrush Generation: Health Services

**Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op)** [144891] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 May 2018 to Question 136300, what steps his Department is taking to obtain the information of the number of Windrush citizens who have been (a) denied and (b) charged for NHS treatment.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Information about Windrush individuals who have been denied or charged for NHS treatment is not held by the Home Office. Decisions on eligibility for free NHS treatment are taken by individual NHS Trusts. Eligibility for free NHS treatment is principally based on being 'ordinarily resident' in the UK, meaning, broadly, living here on a lawful and properly settled basis for the time being. Those from the Windrush generation who settled in the UK prior to 1 January 1973 will be ordinarily resident in the UK as long as they are currently properly settled here.

We set up a task force in April to help people from the Windrush generation to

evidence their status. The Home Office will be notifying NHS Trusts in situations where individuals are issued with documentation by the task force. This is so that the NHS trust can consider if a charge for NHS treatment was applied incorrectly and requires cancellation. The Home Office has introduced additional safeguards to ensure those from the Windrush generation are not adversely affected by measures designed to protect benefits and services. I have chaired a cross-Whitehall meeting with relevant departments, including the Department of Health, to ensure we are all taking the relevant steps to protect the Windrush generation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144891/>

### **Windrush Generation: Immigration**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [146253]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average wait time is for (a) appointments and (b) final decision for Windrush cases at each of the Home Office premium service location.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The waiting time for appointments differs between the premium service centres, depending on the volume of applicants. In some locations appointments are available immediately. The Croydon centre is the busiest of the centres and the waiting time for appointments is currently three weeks.

The majority of applications are decided on the day of the appointment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146253/>

### **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

**Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op) [155781]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment she has made of the potential long-term trauma and detrimental effects on mental health caused to people affected by the Windrush scandal; and what steps the Government is taking to provide counselling, talking therapies and ongoing support to people affected and to their families.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Pursuant to the reply to Question 137167 given to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree on 02 May, the Government is clear that where the Windrush generation have suffered loss, they will be compensated. The first stage was to launch a Call for Evidence, that closed on 8 June. The Government will publish a further public consultation on the design and shape of the scheme, as soon as the time has been taken to analyse the responses to the Call for Evidence and use the information gathered to inform design and implementation considerations.

In the meanwhile we will continue to work with and support affected individuals through the operation of the Windrush Taskforce.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155781/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/137167/>

### **Windrush Generation: Biometrics**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [146254]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of new biometric permits that have been issued to people from the Windrush generation to date.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As at 21st May 2018, the Home Office had confirmed the status of 806 applicants and either issued Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) or arranged for BRPs to be issued.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146254/>



### **Windrush Generation: Biometrics**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op)** [148814] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many biometric residence permits have been issued for Windrush cases in the last two months.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As at 03 June, the Home Office had confirmed the status of 1,425 applicants and either issued Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) or arranged for BRPs to be issued.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-01/148814/>

### **Windrush Generation: Biometrics**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op)** [148813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the issuing of biometric residence permits for Windrush cases has been prioritised by his Department over other cases in the last two months.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office is processing Windrush cases, and the issuing of the associated Biometric Residence Permits (BRP) once a decision has been made, as a priority.

This is being successfully managed to provide Windrush individuals with the documents they need as soon as possible, without impacting on the performance of wider BRP production.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-01/148813/>

### **Immigration: Windrush Generation**

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [147975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 24 May 2018 on Immigration, HCWS722, whether his Department plans to publish written guidance on the evidentiary burden on members of the Windrush generation who apply for citizenship or right to remain.

#### **Immigration: Appeals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [147976] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 24 May 2018 on Immigration, HCWS722, whether (a) members of the Windrush generation, (b) their children who were born in the UK or were minors when they arrived in the UK and (c) people who arrived in the UK between 1973 and 1988 who have been refused (i) citizenship and (ii) the right to remain will have the right to appeal against that decision in the UK.

#### **Immigration: Legal Aid Scheme**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [147977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 24 May 2018 on Immigration, HCWS722, whether (a) members of the Windrush generation, (b) their children who were born in the UK or were minors when they arrived in the UK and (c) people who arrived in the UK between 1973 and 1988 will have access to legal aid for their applications for (i) citizenship and (ii) the right to remain.

#### **Immigration: Disclosure of Information**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [147978] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will bring forward legislative proposals to ensure that (a) members of the Windrush generation, (b) their children who were born in the UK or were minors when they arrived in the UK and (c) people who arrived in the UK between 1973 and 1988 who approach the Windrush task force will not have their information passed to Immigration Enforcement.

#### **Home Office: Staff**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [147979] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 24 May 2018 on Immigration, HCWS722, what training his Department will provide to immigration caseworkers on the new rules relating to that Statutory Instrument.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** On 24 May the Department published its guidance on how decision makers will decide a Windrush Scheme applications. The evidential burden is set out in the guidance that is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-scheme-casework-guidance>

The Department has set up a dedicated team to proactively support members of the Windrush Generation and has implemented a simplified application process. All staff considering Windrush Scheme cases are experienced caseworkers, with further bespoke training focused on the published guidance set out in the Statutory Instrument and underlining the sensitive nature of these cases.

All applications under the Windrush Scheme will be handled sympathetically and proactively. The taskforce will ensure that all relevant evidence is considered and have already helped more than 800 people to get the documentation they need to demonstrate their right to be in the UK.

Anyone who believes their application has been refused incorrectly will be able to reapply through the scheme at no extra cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-24/147975/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-24/147976/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-24/147977/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-24/147978/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-24/147979/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-05-24/HCWS722/>

### Immigration

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [155942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the immigration exemption in forthcoming data protection legislation, if he will make it his policy that no information relating to the case of a member of the Windrush generation, their children or someone who arrived in the UK between 1973 and 1988 will be withheld from that person if they request their personal data.

**Caroline Nokes:** When the Department receives a request for access to personal data, the data will be provided except where to do so would be likely to prejudice effective immigration control.

The Department will handle any request for access to personal data held by the Home Office on its merits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155942/>

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [155273] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has undertaken a risk analysis of the Settled Status scheme; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We recognise the scale of the challenge, and work is well underway to build the EU Settlement Scheme from scratch, with new processes, technology, rules and support for applicants. As is standard for

government's approach to delivery of programmes, we have in place project management tools designed to detect and mitigate risks, provide additional confidence and ensure safe delivery of the Scheme

We will be providing further detail on the Scheme in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155273/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [155841] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has carried out a risk assessment of the planned registration scheme for EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As is standard for government's approach to delivery of programmes, we have in place project management tools designed to detect and mitigate risks, provide additional confidence and ensure safe delivery of the registration scheme for EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU

We will be providing further detail on the scheme in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155841/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Norman Lamb (Liberal Democrat)** [156369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's policy paper, EU Settlement Scheme: statement of intent, published on 21 June 2018, whether the continuous qualifying period would apply to a person who was absent from the UK for (a) eight months and (b) 13 months for the purposes of scientific research.

**Norman Lamb (Liberal Democrat)** [156370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the EU Settlement Scheme: Statement of Intent published on 21 June 2018, whether the continuous qualifying period would apply to an individual who was absent from the UK for (a) eight months, and (b) 13 months for the purposes of research collaboration.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** To obtain settled status, EU citizens and their family members will generally need to have lived continuously in the UK for five years (the continuous qualifying period). Those with less than five years' continuous residence will be eligible to apply for pre-settled status.

For those in the continuous qualifying period for settled status, "continuously resident" means that a person has not been absent from the UK for more than six months in total in any 12-month period. There is no restriction on the number of absences permitted, provided that the total period of absence does not exceed six months in any 12-month period.

There are some exceptions to this; one instance of 12-month absence in a five-year period is permitted for an important reason such as work, study, serious illness or pregnancy. We will be pragmatic about what activity constitutes an important reason. Any period of absence for compulsory military service is also permitted.

However, for applicants who have been continuously resident in the UK for five years, and are therefore eligible for settled status, "continuously resident" means that since completing that period they have not been absent from the UK for more than five consecutive years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156369/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156370/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/718237/EU Settlement Scheme SOI June 2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf)

### **Immigration: EEA Nationals**

*The following six questions all received the same answer*

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156492] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EEA citizens, who are not covered as part of the withdrawal agreement, will be able to apply for settled status.

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156493] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether section 322(5) of the immigration rules will be applied to EU citizens applying for settled status.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156494] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to (a) identify and (b) protect victims of domestic abuse who are reliant on their partners for their immigration status as part of the EU settlement scheme.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156495] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement of 21 June 2018 on EU Settlement Scheme, whether the dedicated customer contact centre has been set up; who will staff that centre; and whether information disclosed to that centre will be passed to immigration enforcement officials.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156497] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement of 21 June 2018 on EU Settlement Scheme, whether the online application scheme for EU Settlement will be accessible on (a) an iphone (b) other smartphones and (c) all types of tablet.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156498] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Oral Statement of 21 June 2018 on EU Settlement Scheme, how many locations will be established for people to use the EU settlement app or be helped to do so; and where such centres will be located in the regions and nations of the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As I set out in my Oral Statement on the EU Settlement Scheme on 21 June and in responding to questions on it (column 508-520), the online application process for the scheme will be short, simple and user-friendly. It will be accessible through a computer, tablet or smartphone, and the optional app for identity verification will be accessible on compatible devices. More information will be published in due course about the locations which applicants will also be able to visit to use the app or be helped to do so, and about the customer contact centre which will be established to help applicants through the process and how that centre will operate.

I also confirmed that we intend that the settlement scheme described in the Statement of Intent I published yesterday will be open to citizens of the other European Economic Area states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland, and their family members, on a similar basis as for EU citizens.

Consistent with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, the draft Immigration Rules for the scheme contained in the Statement of Intent reflect the provision made by the Free Movement Directive for victims of domestic abuse to retain their right of residence following the termination of their marriage or civil partnership, so they will not need to rely on their former spouse or civil partner in order to obtain UK immigration status under the scheme. Also, consistent with the draft agreement, the draft Rules contain requirements as to suitability which reflect the application of the current EU public policy tests to conduct before the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020 and do not provide for paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules to apply to applications made under the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156492/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156493/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156494/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156497/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156498/>

*The statement and Q&A referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-21/debates/F9399B0C-6967-4F2C-BF14-FC3F4DEBC4A/EUSettlementScheme>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156655] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement of 21 June on EU settlement scheme, how employers, landlords and banks will be able to check the immigration status of EU citizens with settled status after June 2021.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As set out in the statement of intent published on 21 June, EU citizens resident in the UK should apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 to obtain their new UK immigration status. This will enable them to continue their lives in the UK with the same entitlements to work, study and access public services and benefits. Evidence of this new UK immigration status will be given in digital form to EU citizens. This will provide them with a convenient way of evidencing their status to those who may need to see confirmation of it, such as an employer, landlord or other service provider. The Government will set out any further plans for adjusting statutory checks by employers, landlords and other service providers in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-22/156655/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-21/debates/F9399B0C-6967-4F2C-BF14-FC3F4DEBC4A/EUSettlementScheme>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [156656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral statement of 21 June 2018 on EU Settlement Scheme and the oral contribution of the Minister for Immigration of 4 June, Official Report, Volume 642, column 6, how many (a) libraries, (b) Citizens Advice centres and (c) other community services the Government has contacted to date in each (i) constituent part and (ii) region of the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As we have previously said, the EU Settlement Scheme will be a streamlined, user-friendly, digital application system with multiple service options to meet the needs of a varied customer base. As such, we are engaging with stakeholders who represent Local Authorities, Community Groups, Employers and Users to help build a system that is fit for purpose. More information will be published in due course about the locations which applicants will be able to visit to use the app or be helped to do so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-22/156656/>

The statement referred to above can be read at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-21/debates/F9399B0C-6967-4F2C-BF14-FCD3F4DEBC4A/EUSettlementScheme>

The Minister's oral contribution referred to above can be read at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-04/debates/E618A10A-D6B2-4A3C-BE47-9D5B0700B897/SettledStatus#contribution-6BF5F60B-8D7E-463E-973B-E6C0654EFD25>

### **Undocumented Migrants**

**Gregory Campbell (DUP)** [155202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of people living illegally in the UK in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Any estimate of the exact size of the illegal population is extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around it.

Exit checks were introduced in April 2015 and are, over time, providing more detailed insights into the behaviour of migrants and how they comply with the restrictions placed upon their length of stay in the UK. Instead of producing inaccurate numbers, the Government is focused on making it harder for people to live in the UK illegally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155202/>

### **Asylum: Scotland**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [156450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are in receipt of subsistence and accommodation payments, in each Scottish local authority.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [156449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are in receipt of subsistence-only support payments in each Scottish local authority.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Published data regarding asylum support, broken down by support type and local authority is available:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018-data-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156450/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156449/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [155399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Aspen cards issued to asylum seekers have failed to work since their introduction in 2017.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The functionality of the Aspen card was thoroughly tested prior to its rollout in May 2017 however the Home Office is aware that a minority of service users have experienced delays in the processing of their applications and payments. We continue to work closely with our IT and commercial partners and other stakeholders to ensure that any issues raised in respect of Aspen cards are resolved and no service users are left destitute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155399/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Roger Godsiff (Labour)** [156328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of living for long periods of time on asylum support on the integration outcomes of new refugees.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** No assessment has taken place about the impact of the time people spend on asylum support on the integration of new refugees. The support available to people who claim asylum includes free accommodation, a cash allowance to cover essential living needs, free healthcare and education for their dependent children.

If a supported person is granted refugee status they are able to take employment or apply for mainstream benefits.

The Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper sets out our commitment to working with civil society and other partners to increase the integration support for refugees in the United Kingdom. The consultation on the Green Paper closed on 5 June and we are considering the responses.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156328/>

### **Asylum: Housing Benefit**

**Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op)** [155777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 May 2018 to Question 143752, on Asylum: Housing Benefit, for what reasons his Department does not publish data on the cessation of support.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office does not publish support cessation data. Information on numbers of cases who have had support terminated broken down by reason for cessation and by area of the UK, is unavailable and could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Individuals whose claims for asylum have been refused and are appeal rights exhausted will lose access to s95 support unless they have children. S4 (2) support may be accessible if reasonable steps are being taken to leave the UK or there is a legal or practical obstacle that prevents departure.

Data on the number of asylum seekers in receipt of support is available:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017/list-of-tables#asylum> (Volume 4).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155777/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143752/>

### **Compass Contracts**

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**David Linden (SNP)** [155925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the provision of asylum accommodation under the COMPASS contracts.

**David Linden (SNP)** [155926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long on average asylum seekers have spent in initial asylum accommodation provided under the COMPASS contracts in the last 12 months.

**David Linden (SNP)** [155929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2018 to Question HL5946 on asylum: housing, if he will publish the criteria set out in the COMPASS contracts on the allocation of shared rooms; and whether the Government has made an assessment of the level of compliance with that criteria.

### **Asylum: Housing**

**David Linden (SNP)** [155927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the level of overcrowding in asylum accommodation; and what assessment he has made of the effect of living in asylum accommodation on

vulnerable people.

**David Linden (SNP)** [155928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2018 to Question 133797 on asylum: housing, what assessment his Department has made of the level of compliance of accommodation providers with national and local housing regulations on room sharing.

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

The contract requires Providers to inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue.

The Home Office closely monitors the length of stay of asylum seekers in Initial Accommodation and aims to move people to Dispersed Accommodation within 19 days. However, some stay in Initial Accommodation for shorter or longer periods depending on their individual needs. Information on the length of stay of people in Initial Accommodation is not currently recorded in a format suitable for publication.

Accommodation providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including those regarding room sharing. The accommodation contracts set out who may share a room, which includes allowing room sharing for couples, unrelated adults of the same sex and related children depending on their genders and ages. Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate and an assessment is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual. The statement of requirements contains the criteria for room sharing and can be found at

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503103>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155925/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155926/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155929/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155927/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155928/>

*Answer 5946, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-28/HL5946/>

*Answer 133797, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-21/133797/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [155943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,



whether his Department was aware of recent concerns raised about cockroaches, rodents and bedbugs and other substandard environmental conditions in privately-run asylum housing properties; and for what reason such properties nonetheless passed all compliance regulations and local authority property standards.

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [155944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to review the compliance regulations and local authority property standards of privately-run asylum housing properties.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation, transportation and cash/subsistence support whilst their application for asylum is being considered. UKVI discharges their statutory duty via a suite of COMPASS contracts with three providers; G4S, Serco and Clearsprings Ready Homes. UKVI do not accommodate service users in privately run asylum housing properties. Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contract requires Providers to inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155943/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155944/>

#### **Asylum: Children**

**Kate Hollern (Labour)** [156631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children were detained while awaiting the outcome of an application for asylum in 2017-18.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Those under the age of 18 are not detained for consideration of their asylum claim.

Detention is used as an appropriate measure of immigration control and the numbers of applicants detained, who are recorded as having claimed asylum at some stage, regardless of the outcome of the claim, is available in table dt\_01\_q of the detention tables in the latest release of the 'Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018, available from the Home Office website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/list-of-tables#detention>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-22/156631/>

#### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [155280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were released from immigration detention on the basis of Rule 35(1) and Rule 35(3) reports at each Immigration Removal Centre in (a) 2017 and (b) 2016.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The total number of releases from all Immigration Removal Centres (IRC) due to Rule 35 reports are published as part of the Migration Transparency data under the category 'Reports made by a medical practitioner under Rule 35 by place of detention'. This can be found at the following link:

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

The attached table provides a breakdown of Rule 35 releases into the sub

categories of R35 (1) and R35 (3). This is provisional management information, taken from a live operational database and the numbers are subject to change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155280/>

### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [155670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to grant discretionary leave to remain in the UK to asylum seekers who have waited a year or longer at immigration detention centres .

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Almost all asylum claims are processed in the community. Those who have their claim processed in detention are those who claim only after having been detained for removal, or who are detained for public protection reasons. We may also detain failed asylum seekers for removal if they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily.

In all cases, the appropriateness of detention is considered through regular reviews and whenever there is new evidence about removability or vulnerability. Detention is kept to the shortest period necessary. It may be maintained only whilst there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable period of time.

There are no plans to review the Discretionary Leave policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155670/>

### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Kate Hollern (Labour)** [156438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are in indefinite detention as a result of their (a) asylum status and (b) status as a refugee being in dispute.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Although there is no statutory time limit on detention under Immigration Act powers, the law does not allow indefinite detention. For detention to be lawful there must be a realistic prospect of removal in a reasonable timescale. Individuals are detained for no longer than is necessary. Detention in all cases is kept under regular review to ensure that it is both necessary and appropriate. The number of people held in detention as a result of the revocation or dispute of their refugee status is not held in a format which is reportable. However, the number of people who have been detained and have raised an asylum claim can be found on table dt\_05 of Immigration Statistics;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned#immigration-detention>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-21/156438/>

### **Slavery**

**Frank Field (Labour)** [132456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2018 to Question 129973 on Slavery, for what reasons an extension of support for victims of trafficking will not be automatic until (a) her Department publishes its updated guidance on discretionary leave to remain and (b) a decision has been made on those cases in accordance with that updated guidance.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** In line with standard practice, support providers under the Victim Care Contract can seek an extension of support for confirmed victims who are awaiting a discretionary leave decision.

Whilst we consider next steps, interim guidance has been issued to caseworkers to put on hold any refusals of discretionary leave to remain decisions for confirmed victims of modern slavery. Grants of discretionary leave are continuing.

This guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interim-operation-guidance-discretionary-leave-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132456/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-27/129973/>

### **Human Trafficking**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [155941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2018 to Question 129315, if he will develop a cost-effective means of recording in a readily accessible format the route of travel of people who have been illegally trafficked to the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office records and publishes data, broken down by nationality, of all those who make an asylum claim or are referred to the National Referral mechanism (NRM) as a potential victim of trafficking or modern slavery. Information concerning a claimants route of travel to the United Kingdom is not recorded centrally in a readily accessible format, and could only be provided at disproportionate costs by examination of individual interview transcripts and case files. There are no plans to record this information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-20/155941/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-22/129315/>

### **Slavery**

**Vernon Coaker (Labour)** [142761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 May 2018 to Question 140986 on Slavery, when the planned alignment of subsistence rates for victims of trafficking with those for asylum seekers will take place; what the subsistence rates will be following that alignment for victims of modern slavery who are supported by the National Referral Mechanism living in a safe house (a) with food provided and (b) where they purchase their own food; and how many such people (i) have applied for asylum and (ii) are receiving outreach support.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We have not yet announced a date for the alignment of subsistence rates and we will set this out in due course, when we have finalised the specific details around the implementation. We are working closely with stakeholders to ensure that this happens as smoothly as possible. The overall amount of money available for supporting victims of modern slavery will not fall, but by making these changes more money is being made available to treble the period of “move on” support, which will happen at the same time, and will help people leaving victim support with their transition to other arrangements.

When considering the level of these rates, the essential needs of potential victims were assessed to be comparable to the needs of asylum seekers. This is why the tested and established methodology that has been developed to measure the level of subsistence for asylum seekers will be adopted to measure the level of subsistence for potential victims of modern slavery. The rate is reassessed annually, and in 2018 was increased to £37.75. Where it has been identified that victims of slavery have needs above those of asylum seekers or have additional entitlements under the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings, these needs are met within the existing Adult Victims of Modern Slavery Care Contract. The methodology includes an allowance for individuals to purchase their food, and this will be taken into consideration when considering the level of subsistence for potential victims who live in catered accommodation, to ensure consistency throughout support.

Victims will continue to receive dedicated and expert support, which is tailored to their unique needs as victims of modern slavery. This includes access to legal aid, counselling, NHS medical and dental services. This will ensure there is a consistent approach for all individuals receiving similar government support. It is also essential that we target support to confirmed victims, at the point they need it most.

We are working closely with the Salvation Army and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to ensure that the implementation of this change is as smooth as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-10/142761/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-03/140986/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigration

**Viscount Waverley (Crossbench)** [HL8588] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 May (HL7540), whether spouses of EU citizens from countries outside the EU will be included in the right to free movement in the UK; and if not, how they reconcile the statement that "family members will be able to join EU citizens on current EU law terms" with EU law determining that those spouses may have access to the applicable EU state.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The references to "family members" and "close family members" in the Written Answer of 14 May (HL7540) include those from countries outside the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-12/HL8588/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-02/HL7540/>

### Immigration: Married People

**Baroness Afshar (Crossbench)** [HL8676] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 18 June, whether they will take steps to improve the treatment by immigration officers of British citizens accompanying non-British born spouses entering the UK; and what those measures will be.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Border Force expects high standards of professionalism of its officers in their dealings with all members of the public, regardless of their nationality or status.

Border Force follows strict guidelines with regards to discrimination, and officers undergo intensive training prior to taking up their positions. Border Force does not tolerate any breach of these principles.

Complaints about Border Force and the services it provides are treated seriously and are used as an opportunity to improve services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-18/HL8676/>

*The above question does not identify the answer to which it refers, and there were no relevant answers given by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 18 June this year.*

### Visas: Skilled Workers

**Lord Allen of Kensington** [HL8475] To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the



terms of reference for the review of Tier 2 visas; and when they expect to announce any changes to the Tier 2 visa policy.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** On Friday 15 June, the Government announced changes to the allocation of places within the Tier 2 (General) cap of 20,700. The change – which will be implemented through amended Immigration Rules coming into effect on 6 July – will ensure that all doctors and all nurses needed in the UK will be able to be recruited to work here without being counted against the cap. This is intended to be a temporary change which recognises the importance of alleviating pressure on the NHS and which creates extra space within the cap for other sectors of the economy.

In parallel to this change, we have also commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the full composition of the Shortage Occupation List.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-11/HL8475/>

### Immigration: Interviews

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL8569] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to adopting the McKenzie friend role during immigration interviews.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are no plans to adopt the McKenzie friend role during immigration interviews. An applicant will normally be interviewed alone or in the presence of a legal representative or regulated adviser, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-12/HL8569/>

### Refugees: Syria

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL8567] To ask Her Majesty's Government what use has been made of the £36 million exceptional costs fund which forms part of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL8568] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the budget for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme remains available to be spent.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office has budgeted £36 million for the exceptional costs fund for the lifetime of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. As at 31 December 2017, £2.4 million of this had been claimed by local authorities against a budget to date of £17 million. The funding is available to help local authorities with exceptional costs which we anticipate will be predominantly for social care, housing adaptations and special educational needs. We continue to work closely with local authorities and healthcare providers to help them claim eligible exceptional costs.

£242m has been allocated to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme between 2015/16 and 2017/18. At 31 December 2017, expenditure of £157.5m had been recorded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-12/HL8567/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-12/HL8568/>

### Asylum

**The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative)** [HL8647] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they do not record data on the length of time it takes to consider individual asylum

claims; and whether this information is recorded elsewhere.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Data on the length of time it takes to consider individual asylum claims is not information that is published and could not be produced without a manual investigation of Home Office systems.

The Home Office has a Service Standard to make an initial asylum decision on straightforward claims within 182 days of the date of claim however we are aware of the number of older cases in the system. These are more complex cases which generally have barriers that prevents an initial asylum decision being made. These barriers are often varied and require time to clear.

The Home Office publishes performance against the service standard to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within 6 months of the date of claim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-14/HL8647/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL8572] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of accommodation available to asylum seekers.

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

The contract requires Providers to inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to hold suppliers to account to quickly resolve the issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-12/HL8572/>

## **New Publications**

**New Scots 2 – Engagement analysis of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 to 2022**

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00537019.pdf>

**Attracting and retaining migrants in post-Brexit Scotland: is a social integration strategy the answer?**

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2018/6/28/Attracting-and-retaining-migrants-in-post-Brexit-Scotland--is-a-social-integration-strategy-the-answer-/SB%2018-44.pdf>

**Windrush generation detention**

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrightts/1034/1034.pdf>

**Equality Briefing: Windrush Generation and Commonwealth Citizens Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules**

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FCE-Briefing-HC1154-Windrush-and-Commonwealth-Citizens-JUN2018.pdf>

**Grenfell Tower – Relatives (guidance on handling extensions of leave from relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell fire)**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/719463/grenfell-relatives-guidance-v3.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719463/grenfell-relatives-guidance-v3.0ext.pdf)

**Letter from Sajid Javid MP to Yvette Cooper regarding an update to the Grenfell relatives' immigration policy**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0623/Grenfell\\_Immigration\\_Policy-Relatives.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0623/Grenfell_Immigration_Policy-Relatives.pdf)

**Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on the review of cases under the Tier 1 (General) route which were refused on character and conduct grounds**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0611/CN\\_to\\_HASC\\_Chair-Review\\_of\\_Tier\\_1\\_cases\\_refused.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0611/CN_to_HASC_Chair-Review_of_Tier_1_cases_refused.pdf)

## News

**UK population growth slows as EU jobseekers stay away after Brexit**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/28/uk-population-growth-slows-as-eu-job-seekers-stay-away-after-brexit>

**UK population growth is slowest in 14 years as migration from EU falls**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/06/28/uk-population-growing-slowest-rate-14-years-fewer-eu-migrants/>

**Windrush victims detained 'unlawfully' by Home Office**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-44651105>

**Home Office pays out £21m after mistakenly detaining 850 people**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/28/wrongful-detention-cost-21m-as-immigration-staff-chased-bonuses>

**Detention of Windrush generation not just a 'mistake' but symptom of 'systemic failure' by Home Office**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-generation-scandal-detention-systemic-failure-home-office-a8421881.html>

**Windrush victims 'violated' by Home Office failings**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-06-29/news/windrush-victims-violated-by-home-office-failings-5f3r03qlh>

**MPs condemn Home Office over detained Windrush pair**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/29/mps-condemn-home-office-over-detained-windrush-pair>

**Slash 'obscene' Home Office fees, say MPs and campaigners**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/24/reduce-home-office-fees-say-mps-campaigners>

**'A money-making machine': families struggle to pay Home Office charges**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/24/home-office-charges-families-struggle-to-pay-money-making-machine>

**Britons want 'smarter border control without blanket caps on migrants'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-immigration-controls-border-brexit-poll-migrants-refugee-crisis-home-office-theresa-may-a8411841.html>

**Migrant crisis: EU summit leaders reach deal after marathon talks**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-44652846>

**The EU's leaders are all smiles, but refugees will continue to drown**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/29/angela-merkel-refugee-crisis-drown>

**Schools no longer required to record pupils' nationality**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/jun/28/schools-no-longer-required-to-record-pupils-nationality>

**Virgin Atlantic stops accepting forced deportations**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44665397>

**Virgin airlines says it will no longer help to deport immigrants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jun/29/virgin-airlines-no-longer-help-deport-immigrants-lgbt-windrush>

**Virgin Atlantic says it will no longer help Home Office carry out involuntary deportations**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/virgin-atlantic-deportations-uk-home-office-windrush-scandal-latest-airline-a8423886.html>

**The UK project giving refugees another chance at childhood**

<https://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2018/jun/29/uk-project-refugees-childhood>

**The NHS, Windrush and the debt we owe to immigration**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jun/22/honour-nhs-built-on-immigration-windrush>

**Home Office to meet Glasgow 'hunger strike' family**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-44647107>

**Language class problems deny women refugees 'new life'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-44601828>

**Modern slavery victim brands UK immigration centre 'worse than prison'**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/modern-slavery-victim-brands-immigration-12827846>

**Adoption struggle may end in sending two boys abroad**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-06-30/news/siblings-up-for-adoption-could-be-sent-to-poland-gtjkkfgwt>

**Minister launches bid to stop teenage brothers deportation**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2018/minister\\_launches\\_bid\\_to\\_stop\\_teenage\\_brothers\\_deportation](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2018/minister_launches_bid_to_stop_teenage_brothers_deportation)

**Memorial to murdered refugees unveiled in Bristol**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/29/memorial-to-murdered-refugees-unveiled-in-bristol>

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## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-13022: Angus MacDonald (SNP): 3rd Annual Eid in the Park** – That the Parliament celebrates the third annual Eid in the Park, which took place in Callendar Park in Falkirk on 24 June 2018; recognises that the event marks the end of Ramadan and brings the celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitr into communities, bringing people from different cultural backgrounds together to promote multiculturalism throughout Falkirk district; notes that the event organisers, Falkirk Muslim Forum, which is an umbrella group representing the leaders of the Muslim community in Falkirk district, worked in partnership with organisations such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Central Scotland Regional Equality Council, Skills Development Scotland, Forth Environmental Link and Committed to Ending Abuse providing positive community engagement, as well as local businesses providing good food, entertainment and activities for all ages on the day; commends the organisers for, once again, achieving a successful Eid in the Park, and looks forward to seeing more successful events like this in the future.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-13022>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

#### Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11620&i=105320#ScotParlOR>

### UK Parliament Debate

#### BAME Blood, Stem Cell and Organ Donation

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-27/debates/5634E89E-4926-4619-9D46-BCB86D0112DD/BAMEBloodStemCellAndOrganDonation>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Donors: Ethnic Groups

**Eleanor Smith (Labour)** [154182] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people from BAME backgrounds have died as a result of there not being a blood, organ or stem cell donor who is a match.

**Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price:** NHS Blood and Transplant is responsible for the collection, manufacturing and issuing of blood products to the National Health Service in England; for organ and tissue donation in the United Kingdom; and for the British Bone Marrow Registry, to which it recruits registered blood donors to be potential stem cell donors.

NHS Blood and Transplant does not collect data in the form requested. The following table shows the most recent annual data on the ethnicity of the patients who have died whilst they were on the waiting list for an organ transplant, but this does not include patients who have died after being removed from the transplant waiting list or patients who were too ill to be added to the waiting list.

	2016/17
White	423
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	86
Not reported	1
Total	510

Source: NHS Blood and Transplant, 2018

The 2016 annual report of the independent UK haemovigilance scheme, Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), shows no report of patients not being transfused or being under-transfused as a result of there not being a blood donor who was a match.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-15/154182/>

## New Publication

### BME Teachers in Scotland

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7ec2e5\\_cb7aff9ac0254e61aa16c1c578e91f45.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7ec2e5_cb7aff9ac0254e61aa16c1c578e91f45.pdf)

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Hate Crime

**Annie Wells (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle hate crime. (S5O-02277)

**Reply from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning (Kevin Stewart):** Last year, Angela Constance published an ambitious programme of work to tackle hate crime and build community cohesion. She also established an action group to take that forward. The action group is tackling a range of issues, including how to increase reporting, raise awareness and prevent hate crime from occurring. Last October, the Government ran the successful hate has no home in Scotland campaign to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it. The Government is carefully considering Lord Bracadale's important recommendations on hate crime legislation, which were published on 31 May.

**Annie Wells:** Figures that have been released by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service this month show a massive spike in some forms of hate crime. Since 2010-11, sexual orientation hate crime has increased by 146 per cent, transgender identity hate crime has increased by 250 per cent and disability hate crime has increased by a shocking 1,100 per cent. Of course I acknowledge that the figures are in part due to increased reporting, but what action is the minister taking to ensure that those crimes are being tackled at their root and that real progress will be made?

**Reply from Kevin Stewart:** Annie Wells is right to highlight that there might be increased reporting, which is a good thing. However, we cannot be complacent on these issues. From a constituency member perspective, I have been perturbed to see the rise in hate crime against LGBT+ people in my area and have been in touch with the police there to make sure that all that can be done is being done. Annie Wells can be assured that the Government will look carefully at the important recommendations that have been made by Lord Bracadale ...  
... this Government will continue to have a zero-tolerance policy towards all hate

crime. We encourage people to report it and we encourage the authorities to take action, as necessary, to deal with those despicable crimes.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11628&i=105380#ScotParlOR>

*The Bracadale Review, referred to above, can be read at*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535892.pdf>

*The Crown Office statistics referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/images/Documents/Statistics/Hate%20Crime%202017-18/Hate%20Crime%20in%20Scotland%202017-18.pdf>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Prejudice-Based Bullying and Hate Crime

**S5W-17329 Linda Fabiani (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that schools are able to distinguish between prejudice-based bullying and potential hate crimes.

**Reply from John Swinney:** Bullying of any form including prejudice-based bullying is entirely unacceptable and we need to be vigilant in challenging any racist and abusive behaviour in our schools.

The Scottish Government published updated anti-bullying guidance 'Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People' in November 2017. The guidance is clear that certain bullying incidents can often be more serious and could be potential hate crimes. The guidance details that it is important for schools and local authorities to ensure that staff are aware of this distinction, and that schools and local authorities have an important role in ensuring that staff have access to high quality Career-Long Professional Learning.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-17329>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### Prime Minister's Questions

**Q6. Afzal Khan (Labour):** Three weeks have passed since the Muslim Council of Britain wrote to the chair of the Conservative party to raise concerns about Islamophobia in the party and it has yet to receive a reply. He has also failed to respond to my letter of 16 June following reports of what looked like an attempt by Tory headquarters to cover up allegations against one of the Conservative party's vice-chairs, the hon. Member for Mansfield (Ben Bradley). Does the Prime Minister agree with Baroness Warsi and the Conservative Muslim Forum that the Conservative party is in denial about Islamophobia in its ranks? [906075]

**Reply from the Prime Minister:** Anti-Muslim discrimination is wrong. There is no place for it in our society. That is why, when I was Home Secretary, I required the police specifically to record anti-Muslim hate crime so that we could understand better what was happening and better tackle the issue. We have introduced a new code of conduct in the party. I understand that my right hon. Friend the Member for Great Yarmouth (Brandon Lewis), the chairman of the party, has met Tell MAMA. We investigate any allegations of Islamophobia that are made relating to members of the party. Action is taken and, in some cases, members have been suspended or expelled from the party as a result.

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Anti-Semitism

**Lord Leigh of Hurley (Conservative):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to promote the use of the definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, together with its guidance notes. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth):** My Lords, the Prime Minister announced the Government's adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism in December 2016. Since then, we have encouraged local authorities to adopt the definition. To date, 135 local authorities across the United Kingdom have done so, as have a number of universities, the National Union of Students and the Union of Jewish Students. In addition, a number of political parties have adopted the definition and the police and CPS already use it as a guide. It is good to see in his place my noble friend Lord Pickles, who has done so much great work in this area.

**Lord Leigh of Hurley:** I thank the Minister and agree that all institutions and political parties should adopt this definition of anti-Semitism, which includes, of course, disproportionate attacks on Israel. Does the Minister share my concern that in this parliamentary Session there have been, according to the House of Lords Library, more than 250 Questions on Israel which, to put it in context, compares with 50 on Iran and five on anti-Semitism?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** As a Minister, I know quite a bit about answering the same question time and again, as noble Lords will be aware. Ultimately, this is a matter for individual noble Lords; it is not a matter for the Government. Obviously, noble Lords will need to declare interests, but if they do so, that is a matter for them.

**Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the IHRA definition clarifies that, when it comes to anti-Semitism by way of criticism of Israel, cases should be judged taking into account the overall context and may—rather than must—be anti-Semitic; and that, “criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic”.

Does the Minister believe that this is sufficient to ensure freedom of speech?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the noble Lord is right that there is obviously an important balance to be struck between freedom of speech and the definition of anti-Semitism. It is important that people bear in mind the definition of anti-Semitism, but ultimately all freedom of speech is constrained in some way. Nobody can go into a theatre and yell “Fire!”—unless there is a fire, of course—so noble Lords would be well advised when exercising the right of free speech to be aware of the parameters within which it is exercised.

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated):** Does the Minister realise that one of the problems is that Government of Israel now calls itself “the Jewish State of Israel”? Could he advise us whether we are being anti-Semitic when we criticise the actions of the Government of the Jewish State of Israel?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I do not want to be drawn too much into semantics on this. I think noble Lords will in general realise what is legitimate criticism of the policy of a particular state—that is legitimate—but they will be aware of the definition of anti-Semitism which the Government, the Conservative Party and many local authorities have adopted. That is a good thing



and is recognised as such internationally.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that anti-Semitism is a truly despicable form of abuse and that it has absolutely no place in Britain? Will he join me in congratulating the Community Security Trust for what it has done in highlighting this abuse and racism? Will he ask his ministerial colleagues in the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice to ensure that everything is in place to support the police and the CPS to bring prosecutions against the perpetrators of these evil crimes?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the noble Lord's record is unimpeachable in this regard and I join him in paying tribute to the CST. He will be aware that at the top reaches of his party in the other place, there is still an issue to address, but I certainly exempt noble Lords in this House from that charge. However, there is much work to be done on anti-Semitism in the upper reaches of the Labour Party.

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench):** My Lords, does the Minister share my feeling that it is shameful and a stain on our reputation that we even have to discuss this and that we find that anti-Semitism is mainstreaming, especially in our universities? I cannot imagine—and I am sure the Minister cannot imagine—anyone attempting to narrow the definition of, for example, Islamophobia. There is a singling out of Jews and Israel under the guise of anti-Israelism.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, in her last phrase I think the noble Baroness is referring to university campuses. There are issues there that remain a concern, but in all fairness considerable progress has been made. The present NUS president, Shakira Martin, deserves praise. She has been working with the Union of Jewish Students, for example. There is still work to be done, but considerable work has been done in that regard. I agree with the noble Baroness about tackling Islamophobia. That too is a challenge that we have to meet in all political parties.

**Baroness Eaton (Conservative):** Will the Minister explain what Her Majesty's Government are doing to deal with anti-Semitism in social media?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, my noble friend will be aware that hate crime in general on social media is something we are seeking to address; we have invested money in that fairly recently. My noble friend is correct to say that it is a very important concern, but it also has an international dimension and is very difficult to deal with. For all that, it is important that we do deal with it, and we are seeking to do so.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, anti-Semitism is absolutely reprehensible and abhorrent. It is a stain on our society, and I welcome any moves to stamp it out, but may I ask the Minister to help me? He mentioned Islamophobia as well. Some of us in this Chamber who come from a particular background are subjected to the most appalling comments by an individual in this Chamber about our faith and about people from the same faith—mainly Muslims—with very little intervention. Can he say whether the same will apply in this Chamber: that we lead by example and we stamp out such questions and comments, which make some of us feel very uncomfortable, and beyond, about coming from a Muslim background?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I am unaware of the specifics that the noble Baroness mentions, but based on what she has just said: absolutely. It is abominable that anybody should be singled out on the basis of race or religion. All discrimination is wrong, and I wholeheartedly endorse what she has said. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-26/debates/051524AE-B5FD-4FF0-BD26-75229CD2C4C8/Anti-Semitism>

### Anti-terrorism: Hate Speech

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP):** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in

pursuit of their anti-terrorism strategy, they will require preaching in mosques and teaching in madrassas in England and Wales to be monitored for hate speech against non-Muslims.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth):** My Lords, it is just a year since the Finsbury Park terror attack on the mosque, and I am reminded how the Muslim community acted then—with dignity, determination and compassion—as no doubt the noble Lord is also so reminded. Our Government are clear on our strong objective to tackle hate crime. Free speech and freedom of belief are fundamental principles of our society. The Government have no plans to require monitoring of preaching in mosques or in any other faith institution.

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch:** My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Lord for that reply, but I fear that it underestimates the problem because the Government must know that hatred of us kuffar is central to radical Islam, that it is being taught in our mosques and madrassas, and that their own Behavioural Insights Team has said that their present policies are failing. Should not the Government get real by requiring all such teaching to be in English, as soon as possible, and by insisting on far greater collaboration from our peaceful Muslim friends in the meantime? After all, they know what is going on. And will the Government please stop using the word “Islamophobia”, because it is surely reasonable and not at all phobic to fear the world’s most violent ideology, from which indeed most hate speech now comes?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, first, the Government are committed to tackling Islamophobia. Secondly, perhaps I could tell the noble Lord of two recent visits I have made in relation to faith institutions. One was to a mosque in Manchester: an excellent mosque in Gorton, where Jews and Christians were welcomed for a great iftar. It was a true expression of British Muslim activity. Similarly, the previous day I visited the Manchester Islamic High School for Girls, where the opening words from the headmistress were on how proud she was to be British—but she was also proud to be Muslim.

**Baroness Warsi (Conservative):** My Lords, I do not like to read, but I shall be really careful how I phrase this with reference to the original Question. Could I ask Her Majesty’s Government whether, in pursuit of their antiterrorism strategy, they will require preaching in the form of Oral Questions and debate in your Lordships’ House to be monitored for hate speech and Islamophobia against Muslims? Does the Minister agree that Tommy Robinson, who has, to much disgust, been hosted in your Lordships’ House for tea and lunch but is now serving time in, I believe, Her Majesty’s Prison Hull, is now in a more appropriate place for someone who thinks, speaks, preaches and conducts himself as he does?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, my noble friend makes some powerful points, and I pay tribute to what she does in this regard. First, I agree with her about the importance of people in this House exercising discretion—of course, within the bounds of free speech—about what they say. Secondly, I am aware that Tommy Robinson is in Her Majesty’s Prison Hull, and I was aware that he was hosted here recently. I was recently in Hull myself, not on prison visits but on faith visits.

**Lord Beecham (Labour):** My Lords, the Labour Party has been criticised—rightly, as it has now acknowledged—for failing to respond promptly to claims of anti-Semitism in its ranks. Recently, we have learned of a number of cases of Islamophobia in the Conservative Party, and today it has emerged that, four weeks ago, the Muslim Council of Britain wrote to Brandon Lewis, the party chairman, requesting an inquiry, to which it received no reply, prompting it to write again yesterday, saying: “We cannot have an approach where you are hoping that the issue would magically go away so that (you) could avoid a bruising inquiry into anti-Muslim prejudice”.

Will the Minister—held, as he is, in the highest regard in this House—use his best

endeavours to ensure that his party and the Government respond constructively to the concern expressed on behalf of our Muslim fellow citizens?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I first thank the noble Lord for his kind words and what he said about anti-Semitism, which needs tackling in all political parties, as does Islamophobia. I fully accept that. He will probably be aware that the Prime Minister answered a question on this in PMQs today and made clear our determination to deal with the issue. I cannot give him an update on a letter that was sent yesterday—that will probably take a bit longer—but there have been suspensions and expulsions and, wherever there is evidence of Islamophobia in our party, it will be dealt with severely, often with expulsion. I hope that we can look to other political parties to do the same with respect to all religions—this is something that affects all of us. I share the noble Lord's aspiration that this be properly dealt with.

**Baroness Pinnock (Liberal Democrat):** Does the Minister agree that an attempt to stigmatise Muslims, as the original Question does, is unworthy of any Member of your Lordships' House, and that such language aids those who oppose cohesive communities and encourages hate crimes and attacks on both mosques and individual Muslims?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I very much agree with the noble Baroness on that issue. She will know, as I do, that the great mass of people in this country want the cohesive communities that, for the most part, we have. As I go around the country, I see that. That is the norm, but we need to ensure that it is universally the case, which, sadly, it is not yet, across all our communities.

**Baroness Afshar (Crossbench):** My Lords, as a teacher of Islamic law, I should like to make a correction. Islam accepts all religions that preceded it—all religions of the book are accepted and respected. This is a Koranic teaching; therefore, there is no time or respect for anyone who demonises any religion, and that should include Islam as well.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I am most grateful to the noble Baroness, who speaks with great authority on the issue. I am sure that the whole House will take note. As I said, as I go around the country and visit mosques and other religious institutions, evidence of what is happening up and down Britain is that it is exactly as she said. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-27/debates/25A169DE-AF92-4F39-8643-DFD5900E5E41/Anti-TerrorismHateSpeech>

## New Publications

**How can we stop prejudice-based bullying in schools?**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/how-can-we-stop-prejudice-based-bullying-schools>

**Using data to inform and evaluate antibullying strategies**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/using-data-to-inform-and-evaluate-anti-bullying-strategies.pdf>

**How can schools use data to prevent and tackle bullying?**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/how-can-schools-use-data-prevent-and-tackle-bullying>

**The Annual Bullying Survey 2018**

<https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/The-Annual-Bullying-Survey-2018-2.pdf>

## LGBT in Britain: Home and Communities

[https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_home\\_and\\_communities.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt_in_britain_home_and_communities.pdf)

## News

### Conservatives accused of 'turning a blind eye to Islamophobia' after inaction on abuse inquiry

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservatives-islamophobia-problem-tories-discrimination-blind-eye-a8419071.html>

### 'Waste of time' – Anger as football fans told they will still face court despite repeal of anti-bigotry law

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16325588.waste-of-time-anger-as-football-fans-told-they-will-still-face-court-despite-repeal-of-anti-bigotry-law/>

### The SNP's anti-bigotry law was a disaster from the beginning

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16325591.paul-hutcheon-analysis-the-snps-anti-bigotry-law-was-a-disaster-from-the-beginning/>

### Man jailed for threatening to 'slit a Muslim's throat' on Twitter after terror attacks

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jailed-for-tweets-hate-speech-muslim-throat-slit-terror-rhodenne-chand-a8419636.html>

### "Mindless bigots" daub Kill All Taigs slogan on Irish republican group's Glasgow HQ

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16315877.mindless-bigots-daub-kill-all-taigs-slogan-on-irish-republican-groups-glasgow-hq/?ref=mr&lp=2>

### Former Morrissey fans to stage anti-racism party in Manchester

<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2018/jun/26/former-morrissey-fans-dave-haslam-to-stage-anti-racism-party-in-manchester>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

#### New Cabinet appointed

<https://news.gov.scot/news/new-cabinet-appointed>

#### First Minister completes her ministerial team

<https://news.gov.scot/news/first-minister-completes-her-ministerial-team>

#### New Scottish Government Ministerial Team

First Minister	Nicola Sturgeon
Deputy First Minister; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills	John Swinney
Minister for Further Education, Higher Education & Science	Post not yet filled
Minister for Childcare & Early Years	Maree Todd
Cabinet Secretary for Justice	Humza Yousaf



Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport	Jeane Freeman
Minister for Mental Health	Clare Haughey
Minister for Public Health, Sport & Wellbeing	Joe Fitzpatrick
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy, & Fair Work	Derek Mackay
Minister for Business, Fair Work & Skills	Jamie Hepburn
Minister for Public Finance & Digital Economy	Kate Forbes
Minister for Trade, Investment, & Innovation	Ivan McKee
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform	Roseanna Cunningham
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy	Fergus Ewing
Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment	Mairi Gougeon
Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands	Paul Wheelhouse
Cabinet Secretary for Government Business & Constitutional Relations	Michael Russell
Minister for Parliamentary Business & Veterans	Graeme Dey
Cabinet Secretary for Communities & Local Government	Aileen Campbell
Minister for Older People & Equalities	Christina McKelvie
Minister for Community Safety	Ash Denham
Minister for Local Government, Housing & Planning	Kevin Stewart
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop
Minister for Europe, Migration & International Development	Ben MacPherson
Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity	Michael Matheson
Cabinet Secretary for Social Security & Older People	Shirley-Anne Somerville
Lord Advocate	James Wolfe
Solicitor General	Alison Di Rollo

### **The Presiding Officer's Youth Visits Programme**

*Closing date for applications: 17 July 2018*

<http://www.parliament.scot/abouttheparliament/108900.aspx>

## **New Publications**

### **Cabinet reshuffle: Six ministers go as Nicola Sturgeon wields axe**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/cabinet-reshuffle-six-ministers-go-as-nicola-sturgeon-wields-axe-1-4760310>

### **Scottish Government Cabinet Reshuffle: Who's in and Who's out?**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-government-cabinet-reshuffle-who-s-in-and-who-s-out-1-4760266>

## Cabinet reshuffle: Five new faces as Sturgeon presides over dramatic changes

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16315818.cabinet-reshuffle-five-new-faces-as-sturgeon-presides-over-dramatic-changes/>

## Scottish Government cabinet reshuffle sees Nicola Sturgeon appoint five new secretaries

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scottish-government-cabinet-reshuffle-sees-12798654>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Forced Marriage: Young People

**Virendra Sharma (Labour)** [149989] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the number of forced marriages that have taken place involving (a) a male and (b) a female below the age of 16 in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The UK is a world-leader in the fight to tackle the brutal practice of forced marriage. The joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit provides vital support to between 1,200 -1,400 potential cases a year.

Forced marriage is a hidden crime and therefore the total number of victims who entered a forced marriage is unknown. In 2017, FMU assisted 164 female victims and 22 male victims who were 15 and under. In 2016, FMU assisted 207 female victims and 13 male victim who were 15 and under. In 2015, FMU assisted 160 female victims and 14 male victim who were 15 and under.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-05/149989/>

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [155395] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on ensuring coordination between NHS trusts and Local Safeguarding Children Boards after the decision was taken to disband the specialist team focused on female genital mutilation.

**Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price:** Throughout the previous female genital mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme, the focus of protecting young girls from FGM remained on local National Health Service trusts, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and Local Safeguarding Children Boards and other partners to develop appropriate local arrangements to deliver the improvements themselves. Governance and monitoring/planning was built into the Programme framework since its launch in 2014, including plans to conclude the Programme and discussions and arrangements for the work to be taken forward after April 2018. Over the four years since the launch, regular discussions took place between Departmental officials and NHS England, who worked closely with regional safeguarding teams across England, and these teams will be carrying on the work to tackle FGM across the NHS in England.

The Programme held a number of transition events, both regionally and nationally, and communicated with all key stakeholders including Local Safeguarding Children Boards, to strengthen the focus on local progress and coordination. Regional safeguarding teams will now oversee this work.

NHS England and its partners remain committed to tackling FGM and ensuring that all respective staff understand that this important element of safeguarding

work remains as business as usual. All partners involved will continue to protect and support young girls potentially at risk from FGM, which is a completely unnecessary medical and highly physically and mentally damaging procedure.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-06-19/155395/>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

#### **Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

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

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

#### **EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill**

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

#### **\*\* European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

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

Royal Assent

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-06-26/debates/D13B3A5F-B212-4575-90CA-92DB2C0AB3DB/RoyalAssent>

European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/16/pdfs/ukpga\\_20180016\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/16/pdfs/ukpga_20180016_en.pdf)

#### **Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

#### **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

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

#### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

## **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill**

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

## **Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

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

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill**

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

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

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

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information**

(closing date 18 July 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/disclosure-scotland/protection-of-vulnerable/>

### **Funeral Expense Assistance Regulations** (closing date 23 August 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/funeral-expense-assistance/>

### **\*\* Financial Memorandum of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

(closing date 31 August 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/109042.aspx>

### **\*\* Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 4 September 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/108999.aspx>

### **\*\* A Culture Strategy for Scotland** (closing date 19 September 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/culture-tourism-and-major-events/culture-strategy/>

### **Antisemitism: Survey of European Jews** (closing date not stated)

<http://www.eurojews.eu/>

### **Police Scotland: Your view counts** (open all year)

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

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## **Funding Opportunities**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Year of Young People**

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed.



Year of Young People 2018 celebrates everything that makes Scotland's young people incredible. As a nation proud of our young people, the Year of Young People puts the spotlight on the contributions and achievements of eight to 26 year olds, while giving them a stronger voice on issues that matter to them, and aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally and on a global-stage.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyp-grant-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyp-application-form.docx>

### **Scotland's Winter Festivals, and St Andrew's Fair Saturday**

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay, and Burns celebrations, boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-application-form.docx>

### **Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 14 September 2018*

The Scottish Government Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund provides grants of up to £300 (in exceptional circumstances up to £500) to small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland to help them run an event with a group of five or more people to discuss what matters to them in relation to democracy.

Groups and voluntary organisations with a turnover of up to £100,000 can apply for a grant to run an event and cover costs such as venue hire, catering, childcare and inclusive communication such as interpreters.

For full information and to apply see <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/democracy-matters-community-engagement-fund>

or contact [democracy.matters@vaf.org.uk](mailto:democracy.matters@vaf.org.uk)

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting**

17 July 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland training to equip those working in a youth setting with appropriate tools for tackling hate speech, explore issues relating to cultural and religious diversity, learn how to recognise hate speech, and how to manage the situation when it occurs. For information contact Jamie Spurway [Jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:Jamie@interfaithscotland.org) / 07921 439 952

### **INAR: New approaches to anti-racism training**

27 July 2018 in Glasgow (11.00-3.00)

CRER event to bring together expertise and learning from a number of recent projects focussed on designing, delivering and evaluating anti-prejudice interventions to explore what really works to tackle racism in the workplace. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc688p3l>

### **Organising for Power**

10 to 12 August 2018 in Fife

14 to 16 September – venue tba

Training weekends for those tackling the root causes of xenophobia and racism and promoting the rights of migrants/refugees/ asylum seeking people in Scotland to learn how to have a bigger impact and plan campaigns that win. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb8usv6h> or contact [o4p@tripodtraining.org](mailto:o4p@tripodtraining.org)

### **Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator**

28 August 2018 in Edinburgh (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2018 in Motherwell (1.15-4.00)

3 October 2018 in Oban (9.45-12.30)

Scottish Charity Regulator events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions. Topics will include the role of the charity trustee, and guidance on safeguarding. For information and to book see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator>

### **Talking to Young People about Equality**

6 September 2018 in Kirkcaldy (6.00-9.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities, and Youth 1<sup>st</sup> workshop to help youth workers begin a dialogue about equality with young people, and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yceyr6at>

### **Culture - Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training**

12-13 September 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

Two day training to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion and belief and increase skills in order to help create a more inclusive diverse environment For information contact Farkhanda Chaudhry 0141 577 8454 / 07950 008 859 / [Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

### **\*\* Mainstreaming Anti-Sectarianism in Equalities Toolkit**

13 September 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

4 October in Edinburgh (1.00-4.30)

15 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

WSREC training for public / third sector organisations, students and individuals interested in unravelling the meaning of sectarianism as an 'equalities' issue and its impact on the wellbeing, safety and opportunities of those affected, and on society as a whole. For information and to book for 13 Sept see <https://tinyurl.com/ydh74vrg>, for 4 Oct see <https://tinyurl.com/y9muw7pm>, and for 15 Nov see <https://tinyurl.com/y7cmj54e>. Other venues may be available by request – for information contact [kperezp@wsrec.co.uk](mailto:kperezp@wsrec.co.uk)

### **Black History Month**

October 2018

#### ***Call for submissions to the programme: deadline 16 July 2018***

Black History Month aims to raise awareness of the positive role that Black / Minority Ethnic men and women have played in shaping Scotland's history. To submit an event for the 2018 programme complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/y9zd8xxj> and return it to [zandra@crer.org.uk](mailto:zandra@crer.org.uk)

## Scottish Interfaith Week

11-18 November 2018

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ACAS** [www.acas.org.uk](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/>

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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