



*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** 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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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 7 January 2019.
The next issue of MEMO will be on 14 January 2019.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

European Union Citizens (Contribution to Scotland)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11856&i=107248#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Unaccompanied Child Refugees

Angela Constance (SNP): Currently, 22 child refugees—boys between the ages of 14 and 17, which is not much older than my son—who have been accepted under the Dubs

scheme are stuck at Calais, waiting for local authority placements. The organisation Safe Passage UK is liaising with the Home Office, but there is a bottleneck in sourcing placements. It has reached out to Scotland and our local authorities, which have been generous in the past. I know that the Scottish Government has been in contact with both the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Home Office but that our care system is currently at capacity. It is an impossible and heartbreaking situation, but it is also not one that we can accept. Therefore, I simply ask the First Minister what more can be done by her, by the Government and by all of us here today to get behind and galvanise efforts to find a solution for all our children this Christmas.

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I thank Angela Constance for raising that hugely important issue. She is absolutely right to identify it as a heartbreaking situation, and the Scottish Government is, of course, very aware of it. We have been clear—and will continue to be so—about the need to welcome unaccompanied children into the United Kingdom and to support their recovery from the trauma that they have endured.

As Ms Constance has indicated, the Scottish Government has already been in touch with both COSLA and the Home Office, and we appreciate the urgency of the situation. Although I gather that there are physically no placements in Scotland to offer these children at the present time, COSLA continues to work with the Home Office and Scottish local authorities to identify appropriate placements for unaccompanied children when they are available.

I give Angela Constance and the chamber my assurance that the Scottish Government will continue to do all that it possibly can and that we will work with COSLA and the Home Office to offer the practical support that these young people desperately need. We will continue to monitor the situation over the holiday period and will offer any help and support that we possibly can.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11857&i=107271#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-15184 Ben Macpherson (SNP): Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland – That the Parliament welcomes the significant economic, social and cultural contributions made by EU citizens to Scotland; acknowledges that they are a welcome and integral part of communities across the country; notes that EU citizens are important contributors to key sectors such as health and social care, education, construction, tourism and hospitality, culture, rural industries and financial services; recognises that EU citizens who have settled in Scotland have done so under freedom of movement; however, notes that the UK Government's policy is for EU citizens, including children, to enter an application process to obtain settled status and pay a fee to retain their existing rights to live, work and study in Scotland; recognises the risk that this charge could create a barrier for families and for individuals on low incomes; notes the Scottish Government commitment to meet the settled status fee for EU citizens working in devolved public services and to provide an information and advice service to support them; however, believes that EU citizens should not have to pay to retain rights that they already hold, and therefore calls on the UK Government to scrap its fee for settled status applications.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15184>

S5M-15184.1 Claire Baker (Labour): Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland – As an amendment to motion S5M-15184 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland), after “freedom of movement;” insert “commends the work of organisations such as EU Citizens Rights Project, in partnership with stakeholders, to address the needs and concerns of EU citizens, ensuring that their voice is heard throughout the negotiation period;”.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15184.1>

S5M-15184.2 Adam Tomkins (Conservative): Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland – As an amendment to motion S5M-15184 in the name of Ben Macpherson (Contribution of EU Citizens to Scotland), leave out from "however, notes that the UK Government's policy" to end and insert ", and notes and welcomes that the first priority of the UK Government in the process of leaving the EU has always been to secure the status of EU citizens living in the UK, and UK nationals living in the EU."

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15184.2>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

EU Settlement Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): [HCWS1226] The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bromsgrove (Sajid Javid) is today laying before Parliament a statement of changes in immigration rules [HC 1849], copies of which are available in the Vote Office. The changes implement the next phase of the roll-out of the EU settlement scheme, for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain UK immigration status. The immigration rules for the scheme came into force on 28 August 2018, for the purposes of an initial private beta test phase, involving 12 NHS trusts and three universities in north-west England. This successfully proved some key elements of the scheme in a live environment, and we published a report on its findings on 31 October 2018.

A second, expanded private beta phase began from 1 November 2018 and will end on 21 December 2018. This has tested the online application process as an integrated, end-to-end process. It has been available, on a voluntary basis, to staff in the higher education, health and social care sectors across the UK, and to some vulnerable individuals, being supported by a small number of local authorities and community groups, in order to test the operation of the scheme for those with support needs.

We will publish a full report on the second private beta phase in January 2019. However, the initial findings from this phase have been positive. By 13 December 2018, more than 15,500 applications had been made and more than 12,400 of these had been concluded, enabling the new system and applicant interaction with it to be tested at scale: 71% of the concluded applications were granted settled status, with the rest granted pre-settled status, and many received their decision within 24 hours; 77% of applicants who provided feedback said that they found the online application process easy, or fairly easy, to complete. More than 90% of applicants successfully used the identity verification app to prove their identity remotely, with the rest required to submit their identity document by post.

We have also learned lessons from this second private beta phase which have enabled further improvements to be made. These include improved functionality in respect of how an applicant verifies their email address; an increase in the size of files an applicant can upload, should they need to provide supporting evidence; and updates to the caseworking system.

In light of the successful testing of the online application process during the private beta phases, we have decided to proceed, as planned, with the start of the wider public implementation of the EU settlement scheme from 21 January 2019. From that date, the scheme will be available to resident EU citizens (and their EU citizen family members) with a valid passport, and to their non-EU citizen family members holding a valid biometric residence card, so that they can prove their identity remotely using the identity verification app, which is an integrated part of the online application process.

We currently anticipate that the further implementation of the EU settlement scheme will

be secured through further immigration rules changes to be laid before Parliament in early March 2019, so that the scheme will be fully open by 30 March 2019.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-20/debates/18122039000021/EUSettlementScheme>

Immigration: Children

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1255] The Government remain committed to relocating the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children to the United Kingdom under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, commonly known as the “Dubs amendment”. The first 220 of those children arrived under exceptional circumstances as part of the UK’s comprehensive support to the clearance of the Calais camp from October 2016. During this time, this Government took unprecedented action to remove vulnerable children from a dangerous situation where they were at risk of violence and abuse.

Following discussion with delivery partners, we have decided to remove the date criterion for when children had to have arrived in Europe to qualify for transfer to the UK. Delivering section 67 in a safe way, which respects individual states’ national laws and the best interests of children, remains a priority for the Government.

This decision means that participating states—France, Greece and Italy—will now be able to refer the most vulnerable children, regardless of when they arrived into Europe. To be eligible for the scheme, it must be in the child’s best interests to come to the UK, rather than to remain in their current host country, be transferred to another EU member state or to be reunited with family outside of Europe. We continue to ask participating states to prioritise unaccompanied children who are most likely to be granted refugee status and/or are the most vulnerable.

It is this Government’s hope that removing the date criterion will speed up transfers and will enable participating states to more easily identify children for transfer as soon as possible. We are grateful for the ongoing support to meet this commitment from the Governments of participating states, delivery partners and UK local authorities. Ensuring the safe relocation of children under the scheme as soon as possible is dependent on appropriate care placements being available for children once they arrive in the UK. The Home Office continues to work closely with local authorities across the UK to place children as quickly as possible and in a location where their individual care needs can be met.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-12-20/debates/18122039000020/ImmigrationChildren>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Future Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): ... We all heard the public’s concerns about immigration in the run-up to the EU referendum. These were concerns held by many voters on both sides of the debate. The result of that referendum was clear: the UK will be leaving the European Union on the 29 March 2019. This means we can end freedom of movement so that, for the first time for more than 40 years, we will be able to say who can and who cannot come into this country.

This is an historic moment, but let us be clear. The United Kingdom has a proud history of being an open and welcoming nation, and this will not change. As the son of immigrant parents, I know full well the contribution they, like many other migrants, made to the community I grew up in. We recognise and value the contribution of immigration and the contribution it has made to our society, our culture, our economy and our communities, and this cannot be over-stressed. For example, there is how it has helped to deliver vital public services. It has brought new perspectives, expertise and knowledge, stimulating growth and making us all the more the tolerant, outward-looking nation that we are today.

Britain is going to stay open for business. We will continue to welcome talented migrants from every corner of the globe. We have been clear in saying to the 3 million EU nationals already here, “We value hugely the contribution that you have made to this country. Deal or no deal, we want you to stay, and we will protect your rights.” The future system is about making sure immigration works in the best interests of the UK. We are absolutely not closing our doors. We are simply making sure that we have control over who comes through them, ensuring, as we committed to do in our manifesto, that we are able to bring annual net migration down to more sustainable levels.

Today, we have published a White Paper setting out the Government’s proposals for doing this through a single, skills-based immigration system that will seize the unique opportunities enabled by the end of free movement. Copies are available for right hon. and hon. Members in the Vote Office. I would like to highlight to the House the key proposals and principles in it.

First, free movement will come to an end. Tomorrow, we will introduce the immigration and social security co-ordination (EU withdrawal) Bill to implement this. It will make European economic area and Swiss nationals and their family members subject to UK immigration control, and it will protect the status of Irish nationals. This means that in the future everyone other than British and Irish citizens will need to get UK permission before they can come here.

Secondly, there will be a single immigration system for all nationalities. The existing automatic preference for EU citizens will end. This approach will give everyone the same chance, regardless of where they are from—levelling the playing field to welcome the most talented workers from anywhere in the world.

Thirdly, this will be a skills-based system, giving priority to those with the skills we need. We are taking this approach to ensure that we can attract the brightest and the best people to the UK—those who will help our economy flourish. This follows advice that has been commissioned by the Government from the independent Migration Advisory Committee on the impact of European migration on the UK economy and society. We believe this is fair, and it will help drive up wages and productivity across our economy.

Following these three principles, we are acting to make the future immigration system work for those coming to our country, for businesses, for our public services and for the UK as a whole. Our approach will maintain protections for British workers while cutting bureaucracy. Fundamental to this will be a new route for skilled workers to ensure that employers can access the talent that they need to compete on the world stage. There will be no cap on numbers and no requirement for the highest skilled workers to undertake a resident labour market test, and there will be a minimum salary threshold.

We are also creating a time-limited short-term workers route to ensure businesses have the staff that they need to fill jobs, as they adapt to a new immigration system. We will ask the MAC to keep this scheme under review, so that it ensures a smooth transition. This route will be open to seasonal and low-skilled workers, along with high-skilled workers who need to come to the UK for longer than the current business visitor visa rules allow. Those who arrive under this scheme will have no rights to access public funds, to settle or to bring in dependants. The White Paper sets out our initial proposals to allow these short-term workers to come to the UK for 12 months at a time, followed by a year-long cooling-off period to prevent long-term working. We will be engaging extensively with businesses and with stakeholders on the length of the stay and the cooling-off period to make sure that we get this right.

These proposals will give protection to British workers, but we have recognised that immigration alone cannot be the solution, so we will continue as a Government, working in partnership with business, to invest in and to improve the productivity and skills of the UK workforce.

Our world-class universities will also benefit from the proposed new system. There will be no limits on the number of international students who will come here, and we continue to encourage them to come and study here. We will make it easier for graduates to stay and to work. This will widen the talent pool for businesses and boost economic growth.

Our plans are about opening Britain up for business, rather than creating new red tape. The future immigration system will be quick and easy to use. We will introduce a streamlined application process for those who are visiting, coming to work or coming to study, and this will use the very latest technology. This will improve the experience visitors and travellers have when they are crossing the border. We will also make it possible for more people to use e-gates. At the same time, we will improve security at the border by introducing an electronic travel authorisation scheme and phasing out the use of insecure national identity cards.

We are proposing a single, skills-based immigration system that will be fit for the future—one that is flexible to accommodate the trade deals that we agree with the EU and with other countries. It will operate from 2021, and it will be phased in to give individuals, businesses and the Government the time needed to adapt. This means that individuals do not need to make immediate changes and that businesses do not need to rush through plans based on guesswork about the future system.

The immigration White Paper outlines the proposals for the biggest change to our immigration system in a generation. However, it is important to note that it is not the final word; rather, it is the starting point of a national conversation on a future immigration system. I am pleased to announce that the Government will be launching a year-long programme of engagement across the UK to ensure that a wide range of views are heard.

I am confident all the measures that have been outlined today will ensure that the UK continues to flourish outside the EU; that the future immigration system is geared towards controlling who can come here and for what purpose, reducing net migration, while ensuring the brightest and the best can work and study here; and that it will boost our economy and benefit the British people. We are building a fair and sustainable immigration system that answers the concerns people have rightly had about free movement—an immigration system that is designed in Britain, made in Britain and serves our national interest. I commend this statement to the House.

Diane Abbott (Labour): ... The whole House knows that when we leave the single market, freedom of movement falls. ...

If the Home Secretary is allowed to abandon the commitment to a formal target in the tens of thousands, that would be welcome. That target was a purely political device, designed to stress the Government's intent to crack down on immigration when the Conservatives felt under pressure from UKIP, but the House will wait to see what his attitude to targets means in practice. The danger is that he will abandon formal adherence to targets in principle, but that the Home Office—particularly hearing, as it will have heard, what the Prime Minister has to say—will continue to function in the same way, with all the distortions, all the unfairness and all the inefficiencies that arbitrary targets lead to.

I support a single immigration system for all nationalities. To my certain knowledge, nothing drove pro-leave sentiment among voters of Commonwealth origin more than the sense that they were disadvantaged in relation to immigration compared with EU nationals. ...

Is the Home Secretary aware of the concern that the uncertainty about the Government's intentions and the delays in producing a White Paper have produced among EU citizens, their friends, their families and their employers? Is he able to tell us when we will know what the minimum salary threshold will be? There is much concern that the minimum salary threshold will be at £30,000, which would actually rule out healthcare workers, social care workers and technicians, and be very damaging to both the private and public sector. ...

Does the Home Secretary really think that the Home Office has the capacity to change its established ways of working and its unofficial targets, which it was clearly working towards and helped contribute to the Windrush scandal? Does he accept that on immigration, he cannot have it both ways? He cannot talk about an outward-looking, global Britain and meeting the needs of society and employers, while being part of a

Government with a rhetoric of cracking down on migration ...

The Windrush scandal upset society as a whole and Members on both sides of the House, but it was not an aberration; it was a consequence of a way to look at migrants that was essentially negative, which was reflected, sadly, in legislation passed under more than one Government. The system that the Home Secretary has set out in his statement will not meet the needs of migrants for certainty. It will not meet the needs of employers for a stable, skilled workforce. Above all, this statement, although it may read well to people who want to see migration cracked down on, does not meet the need of the hour. Brexit offers, if it offers nothing else, the chance to put in place an efficient—no one that deals with the Home Office nowadays can say that it is universally efficient—fair and non-discriminatory immigration system that meets the needs of the society. We should seize that opportunity. I believe that this White Paper statement falls far short of that.

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... it is fair to say that all parties are united in trying in their way to make sure that we remain an open and welcoming country to migrants from across the world who come to the UK to work, to study or to visit ... One important aspect of the White Paper is that we have listened to the evidence. ... The starting point for that evidence was the work done by the Migration Advisory Committee, which is completely independent of Government. The MAC undertook a detailed report. ...

The right hon. Lady asked me about salary thresholds. This is for the high-skilled worker route. The independent Migration Advisory Committee, based on its evidence, suggests a salary threshold of £30,000. What we have said is that we have listened, but that we need to do more work and have more extensive engagement before we come to a final figure. It will not be set in stone at £30,000 at this point. ...

Iain Duncan Smith (Conservative): ... one of the problems with discussing migration over the past two decades has been that any time it is mentioned, people immediately accuse those who ask about reducing it of being racist. We have to bring an end to that level of debate ...

Stuart C. McDonald (SNP): ... The proposals will make us all poorer economically, socially and in terms of opportunity. They signify not a “global Britain”, but an inward-looking Government and a Prime Minister still obsessed with net migration targets. When the Government talk about taking back control of our borders, what they mean is ripping up mutual rights to live, study, work and enjoy family life across Europe, depriving future generations of the amazing opportunities that our generations have enjoyed. ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... The hon. Gentleman argues for continuing freedom of movement. He should cast his mind back to just over two years ago when the people of the United Kingdom voted to end it. Scottish citizens are members of the United Kingdom. They voted to end it. ...

To read the very lengthy complete question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-19/debates/9BA7B2F2-3B9A-4E09-8E02-EC7F459592F6/FutureImmigration>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Future Immigration

The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford) read the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons that has been given above.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): ... If we leave the single market, freedom of movement, which we have enjoyed as members of the European Union,

ends. The Statement says that this is a historic moment. I think it is very sad that British citizens will lose the right to live, work and study in the European Union. British citizens have taken up the right to live elsewhere in the European Union more than any other nationality. The loss of this right is nothing to celebrate. It diminishes us as a nation. We want to be a global and outward-looking nation. Where we find ourselves today is tragic, rather than historic. ...

The noble Baroness has said before that the Government are still committed to reducing migration to the tens of thousands—a target that has never been and never will be met. Today, though, on the radio the Home Secretary repeatedly refused to commit himself to the tens of thousands target, so can the noble Baroness tell the House what Her Majesty's Government's policy is in this respect? ...

... the Government cannot have it both ways: on the one hand, talking about an outward-looking, global Britain meeting the needs of society and employers and, on the other, using the rhetoric of cracking down on migration. ...

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): ... Can the Minister confirm that, currently, EU citizens and their families who want to stay for more than three months must have sufficient resources if they are not working so that they are not a burden on the state, and that EU citizens and members of their family can be expelled from the UK on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health? Can she also confirm that the UK can refuse, terminate or withdraw any free movement rights in the event of an abuse of those rights, or fraud? In other words, does she accept that we have considerable say over who can and who cannot come to or remain in this country as a member of the European Union? ...

How can the future immigration system make sure, as the Statement says, that immigration works in the best interests of the UK when the policy is determined by the Home Office? Surely the number of doctors and nurses needed, and of those needed to work in social care, should be determined by the Department of Health and Social Care, for example, and not by the Home Office? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... My right honourable friend the Home Secretary made it clear this morning that we are committed to our manifesto pledge of controlling immigration to sustainable levels and that we favour a skills-based system that meets the needs of the UK economy. ...

To read the complete question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-19/debates/B22E0359-D505-4818-B29D-6461D53501B2/FutureImmigration>

UK Parliament, Public Accounts Committee

Inquiry into Windrush Generation and the Home Office: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/public-accounts-committee/windrush-generation-and-the-home-office/oral/94398.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

English Language Skills: Employability

Vicky Ford (Conservative): What steps the Government are taking to support women with limited English language skills to improve their employability. [908332]

Reply from the Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills (Anne Milton): The Government Equalities Office is considering how best to deliver new funded programmes for people who face barriers to getting into work for the first time. We are also working with the Learning and Work Institute to develop best practice guidance on building effective local networks and partnerships.

Vicky Ford: During the Afghanistan war, many local people put their lives at risk by using

their language skills to help our military, and some of those families were evacuated to Chelmsford. The English for Women project helped some of those women, and it now supports women of more than 30 nationalities to become involved in their communities, and to improve their employability. Will my right hon. Friend thank all those volunteers at the English for Women project in Chelmsford, and suggest ways to help them to network with likeminded organisations across the country?

Reply from Anne Milton: I certainly join my hon. Friend in thanking all volunteers at English for Women, which is a remarkable project. Such Government-funded programmes have supported more than 73,000 isolated adults—most of whom are women—to improve their English language skills, and, as my hon. Friend says, such support is about building confidence, people's ability to get into good jobs, and integration in local communities.

Chi Onwurah (Labour): ... Newcastle benefits from many volunteers and charitable organisations such as the Angelou Centre, the West End Women and Girls centre, and the West End Refugee Service, which support women to learn English and improve their employability. There is, however, a lack of central Government funding for adult and lifelong education. Will the Minister speak to the Education Secretary about the importance of investment in adult education, particularly for isolated and vulnerable women, and will she meet me and the all-party group for adult education, which I chair, to discuss how we can make progress in that vital area?

Reply from Anne Milton: I am very happy to meet the hon. Lady at any time because, as she rightly says, this is a vital area. We are spending £1.5 billion on adult education, some of which has been devolved to combined authorities and also delegated to London. It will be interesting to see how those different areas best use that money in education—in a way, they are like pilot schemes. I have also seen extremely innovative projects that work with women with children, and help them to help their children with school tests and such things, as a way of improving their own English. Those are often women who would not otherwise have come forward.

Mike Wood (Conservative): What are the Government doing to support women in their communities who are isolated as a result of poor English language skills?

Reply from Anne Milton: I have commented on the English language courses we are running, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government also has a big programme. Integration is uppermost in our minds at the moment, and the first step towards integrating people and helping them to gain confidence is for them to have good English language skills.

Jim Shannon (DUP): ... Will the Minister outline whether funding is available for already trained teachers to be trained in either TESOL, the teaching of English to speakers of other languages, or CELTA, the certificate in teaching English to speakers of other languages, to teach English within communities and community centres?

Reply from Anne Milton: I will have to get back to the hon. Gentleman to ensure that I give him a precise answer. We are undertaking a trial this year and fully funding adults who earn less than the pay threshold of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission—just under £16,000. Encouraging women to get on English language courses and improve their skills is an important area to focus on. We are talking about women who are just in employment and on very low wages and who, of course, face significant difficulties if they lose their jobs—their progress will be limited by that.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-20/debates/4FA28710-C8DB-4CED-9885-D1C090E5E455/EnglishLanguageSkillsEmployability>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Pupils: Personal Records

David Lammy (Labour) [201095] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department shares national pupil data with the Home Office for purposes related to immigration; and how many records have been shared by his Department since May 2010.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Where the police or Home Office have clear evidence that a child may be at risk or evidence of criminal activity, including illegal immigration, limited data including a pupil's address and school details may be requested from the National Pupil Database. It is right that we share this data if it helps to keep a child safe from harm or to disrupt a crime.

The basis for sharing information is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between the two departments. This sharing does not include the pupil nationality and country of birth data previously collected by the Department for research purposes.

The department publishes information about all of its data sharing as part of its commitment to transparency. This publication (last updated on 13 December 2018) can be found on GOV.UK at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-external-data-shares>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201095/>

Pupils: Nationality

David Lammy (Labour) [201096] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, by what process may schools retract nationality data submitted to his Department between October 2016 and June 2018.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department collected data on the nationality, country of birth and proficiency in English of pupils via the school census between autumn 2016 and summer 2018. The data was collected for the purposes of educational research to help us understand the impact of migration on the school system. Understanding trends in migration, and the associated needs in the school system, helps us ensure that all children, wherever they are from, have the best possible education.

The requirement for parents or guardians to provide information on their children's nationality and country of birth was always optional and the school census guidance expected schools to ensure that they were made aware of their right to decline to provide this data. Guidance also advised schools to inform parents that if they wished to retract any nationality or country of birth information returned in a previous census, they should inform their school of this decision. This would then be transferred to the department and the department would remove from its systems any information previously returned. As this data is no longer collected, the last opportunity for parents to retract this information was via the last collection in summer 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201096/>

Pupils: Personal Records

David Lammy (Labour) [201097] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assurance his Department provides to parents that data on children collected for educational purposes will not subsequently be used for immigration enforcement.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department publishes information about all of its data sharing as part of its commitment to transparency which includes the number of records shared from the Department for Education to Home Office (HO) to support HO Immigration Enforcement's key objectives of preventing abuse of

immigration control. This publication (last updated on 13 December 2018) can be found on GOV.UK at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-external-data-shares>

This information is also included within the suggested wording for privacy notices that the Department makes available for schools to support them with communicating appropriate messages about how an individual's personal data will be used.

The HO can only request information from the Department for Education for immigration enforcement purposes in circumstances where they have clear evidence a child may be at risk or there is evidence of illegal activity, including illegal immigration. In such cases limited data including a pupil's address and school details may be requested from the National Pupil Database. It is right that this data is shared if it helps to keep a child safe from harm or to disrupt a crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201097/>

Immigration

Chuka Umunna (Labour) [201624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to resolve efficiently immigration cases that have raised issues on the European Convention on Human Rights.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Immigration cases which raise issues under the ECHR are primarily those made as family and private life claims. These can be very complex and this may extend the time taken to make a decision on the application. This may be due to the customer's individual circumstances, the need for further evidence, or when further information raises issues that require consideration.

Factors such as legal challenges, amendments to the immigration rules, policy and processes may also contribute to the overall processing time of an application.

The transparency data published quarterly shows that the number of human rights (Article 8)/complex cases in progress at quarter three of 2017 was reported to be 49,950. At quarter three of 2018 was reported to be 39,000.

Sources [at tabs InC_03]:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-november-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201624/>

Immigration: Maladministration

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [199288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent changes his Department has made to minimise the chance of errors occurring in relation to a person's immigration status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office recognises the importance of good data quality to support its decision making and we are continuing to work to improve and assure both our historic and present data quality.

We are in the process of deploying a new immigration data platform and digital casework applications to each area of the immigration system, and we are improving the accuracy and completeness of records held on immigration databases through user training and rigorous quality assurance.

We have created a Chief Caseworker Unit within UK Visas and Immigration and a 'safety valve' mechanism within Immigration Enforcement to bolster caseworking expertise and ensure that caseworkers have a clear escalation route where they have a concern or require specialist guidance. This is in addition to a number of new working process trials to help reduce the number of refusal decisions overturned at appeal. In addition, we are increasing face to face engagement

between staff and individuals in both immigration reporting centres and immigration removal centres to ensure that vulnerability issues are identified and managed at the earliest opportunity

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-05/199288/>

Immigrants: Finance

David Lammy (Labour) [202693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people who report to immigration reporting centres receive financial support from the Home Office to do so.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Financial support to enable attendance at a reporting centre is determined on a case by case basis by the Home Office and is dependent on a number of factors including the current status of an individual's case, proximity to an immigration reporting centre location and any exceptional circumstances.

An individual who is required to report is able to apply for support and on approval will receive a ticket for their homeward journey and next reporting event.

This system will be replaced nationally by a pre-loaded debit card system which is part of the ongoing transformation of our reporting centres and it is envisaged that all individuals requiring financial support to report will be provided the necessary funds via this system.

The exact proportion of the reporting population who receive such support is not available in an accessible format and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202693/>

Immigration: Families and Private Life

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [201749] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests for a change of conditions of leave granted on the basis of family or private life were received from August 2017 to August 2018; and how many of those applications were (a) granted, (b) refused and (c) still awaiting a decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no specific application type within our electronic systems entitled 'Change of Conditions'. Answering this question would require manual inspection of all family and private life leave to remain applications within the date range. This would incur disproportionate cost to the public purse.

The available information relates to grants and refusals of in-country leave to remain, based on family life, or private life, which is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Extensions table ex_01_q, latest edition at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201749/>

Migration

Jo Stevens (Labour) [201697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on 27 November 2018, what steps his Department is taking to achieve the Government's target for net migration with regard to (a) skilled workers, (b) agricultural labourers and (c) international students.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are committed to reducing net migration to sustainable levels.

We will shortly be bringing forward a White Paper outlining the principles of the future immigration system.

We have been clear that the UK will always be open to those who bring valuable

skills, experience and investment to the UK and our economy. We will continue to pursue immigration policies that are selective about who makes the greatest contribution to our country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201697/>

The evidence referred to above can be read from Q592 to Q612 at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-work-of-the-home-secretary/oral/92960.html>

British Nationality: Applications

Chuka Umunna (Labour) [200713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to tackle the issue of citizenship applications taking longer to process than the service standard of six months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The most recent published data on citizenship applications (November 2018) shows that 99.6% of applications were determined within the service standard of six months. Naturalisation is not an automatic process and the Home Office has to conduct a number of checks before it can reach a decision on whether to grant citizenship.

The extent and length of time taken to complete the checks on the more complex cases varies according to the particular circumstance of each case. The progress of these checks is closely monitored and decisions are made when the checks are completed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200713/>

Visas: Applications

Martyn Day (SNP) [190505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will undertake a review of the length of time it takes for visa application decisions to be expedited for those experiencing financial hardship, and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applicants applying for leave to remain on the basis of their family life, private life or outside of the rules can, at the same time, apply for the application fee to be waived due to being destitute. Fee waiver applications are separated from fee paid ones and are assessed by a dedicated team. If the destitution claim is accepted, the application is considered as a priority. No review is planned.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-12/190505/>

Visas: Applications

Karen Lee (Labour) [194782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to amend the immigration visa application process to allow the use of printed bills as acceptable documentation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration has made changes to evidential requirements and its front end service arrangements so that customers no longer need to send paper evidence by post, but will either have their evidence scanned at an application centre, or upload their own digital image of their evidence as part of the application process. For many, customers, these changes mean they will be able to retain their key documents while their application is considered.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194782/>

Visas: Foreign Investment in UK

Afzal Khan (Labour) [201735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

for what reasons he (a) planned to suspend the granting of Tier 1 Investor visas, (b) cancelled that suspension and (c) did not announce those decisions in written or oral statements to the House; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 1 (Investor) visa is not currently suspended. The Home Office remains committed to reforming the route and will make a further announcement in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201735/>

Immigration: Applications

David Lammy (Labour) [201098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for (a) citizenship, (b) visas and (c) asylum have been refused on the basis of notoriety in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The latest information on citizenship decisions can be found in the UK Visas and Immigration Transparency Data:

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

Table cZ_09 Shows reasons for refusal. However, this only gives broad reasons for refusal. A case refused on the basis of notoriety would be within the 'not of good character' statistic along with many other aspects of good character.

No comparable data is available for visa or asylum applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201098/>

Universal Credit: Immigrants

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [202800] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2018 to Question 196901 and the Answer of 4 December 2018 to Question 195084, how his Department determines and reviews benefit eligibility with consideration for criteria on (a) public funds restrictions and (b) genuine prospect of work tests in the absence of information recorded on benefit payment systems of the nationality and immigration status of claimants.

Reply from Alok Sharma: When a claim is made to income-related benefit, nationality and right to reside checks are made in order to determine eligibility for the benefit, however the nationality of the claimant is not recorded centrally across our benefit payment systems.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202800/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196901/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-23/195084/>

Migrant Workers: Databases

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [202144] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2018 to Question 200710 on Migrant Workers: Databases, what steps the Government has taken to promote the use of his Department's employer checking service to employers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office officials regularly meet employers, partners within the sector and other government departments who work with employers to promote our on-line guidance and codes of practice. The published guidance contains advice on the circumstances in which employers should contact the employer checking service, for example when there is an outstanding application.

The guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202144/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200710/>

Visas: Health Professions

Chuka Umunna (Labour) [201644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to end the temporary lifting of the restrictions on Tier 2 visas for NHS Staff.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no current plans to remove the exemption for doctors and nurses from the Tier 2 annual cap

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201644/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [201105] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate his Department has made of the number of EU nationals recruited to work in the NHS in (a) Coventry, (b) West Midlands and (c) England in each year since 2010.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), but not staff working in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers.

The following table shows the headcount figures for the number of European Union national joiners to National Health Service trusts and CCGs in England, West Midlands and Coventry as at 30 June each year and the latest data available.

	England	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	Coventry
June 2010 - June 2011	6,101	321	22
June 2011 - June 2012	6,239	321	27
June 2012 - June 2013	8,061	397	24
June 2013 - June 2014	11,457	643	35
June 2014 - June 2015	13,667	822	47
June 2015 - June 2016	15,449	782	64
June 2016 - June 2017	12,720	687	83
August 2017 - August 2018	11,565	557	77

Source: NHS HCHS monthly workforce statistics, NHS Digital. Nationality is self reported.

Joiners and leavers data shows people leaving or returning to active service, this would include those going on or returning from maternity leave or career break, for example. EU nationals may have been employed in the United Kingdom before joining the NHS.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201105/>

ICT: Migrant Workers

Jo Stevens (Labour) [201696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of trends in level of applications for

extensions of Tier 2 stay and work visas in the information and communications Sector in the first three quarters of this calendar year.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on applicants for extensions of stay for work using sponsorship certificates, by tier and industry type (including information and communications) is published quarterly in the 'Immigration Statistics' release. The latest, to September 2018, can be found in table cs_04_q at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201696/>

Migration: Students

Faisal Rashid (Labour) [202328] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, for what reasons students are included in migration statistics.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses the United Nations (UN) definition of a migrant when estimating long-term international migration:

“A person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.”

This is irrespective of their reason for migration.

Any estimates of long-term international migration will include students who meet the UN definition.

Migration statistics are a fundamental component of mid-year population estimates. These are used for planning and service delivery, resource allocation and managing the economy. Therefore, it is important that the total population, including migrants, are considered in these estimates.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-14/202328/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Diane Abbott (Labour) [194042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to compensate victims of the Windrush scandal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is establishing a compensation scheme for members of the Windrush generation who have suffered loss as a result of difficulties in demonstrating their lawful immigration status.

The Home Office published a consultation paper on 19 July seeking views on the design and operation of the scheme. The consultation closed on 16 November.

We will announce details of the final scheme and how to apply as soon as possible.

Ahead of the scheme coming into operation, the Home Office has already put measures in place to help those who are affected. This includes a dedicated team for vulnerable people within the Windrush taskforce, providing assistance where an urgent need for support or advice has been identified.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194042/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Diane Abbott (Labour) [196675] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the number of members of the Windrush generation who were deported to other countries and have subsequently requested compensation.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [196676] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the number of members of the Windrush generation who were detained at an immigration centre and have subsequently requested compensation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21 August with the initial findings of the Historical Review of removals and detentions. The Historical Review identified 14 people who had been detained in an Immigration Removal Centre. Regular updates have been provided to the committee and this information is available in the library of the House. As set out in the letter to the Committee of 12 November, the department initially excluded all individuals with a “criminal case type” marker. We reviewed this approach to ensure we have not adopted too broad a definition and revised our methodology. However, individuals who have been deported following a criminal conviction in the UK continue to be excluded from the review. We will continue to keep the Home Affairs Select Committee updated.

The Government has committed to establishing a compensation scheme specifically for those members of the Windrush generation who suffered a loss as a result of difficulties in establishing their lawful immigration status. Details of the scheme and how to apply for compensation will be announced as soon as possible. Prior to the launch of the compensation scheme it is open to individuals to bring a claim for compensation through the court system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196675/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196676/>

The updates referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/Letter%20from%20the%20Home%20Secretary%20regarding%20Windrush%20-%20July%20update,%2021%20August%202018.pdf>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180921-Home-Sec-Windrush-August-update.pdf>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/Letter-from-Home-Secretary-Windrush-12-November-18.pdf>

Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [201725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement of 23 April 2018, Official Report, column 619, on Windrush, what progress his Department has made on setting up a new customer contact centre.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration continues to work towards providing a World Class Customer Service. To that end, insight and feedback are used continuously to improve our services. Where an application is made in the UK, customers can contact our in-country contact centre and are provided with information about the Immigration Rules and the requirements of the Points Based System.

In addition to the established contact system, since the commitments mentioned by the Hon. Member on 23rd April, several improved services have been introduced. These include a Customer Resolution Centre for our EU Settlement Scheme to proactively support EU citizens through the application process and in April 2018 we also formed a dedicated, free, helpline for those individuals who are part of the Windrush generation and wish to seek the help of the Windrush Taskforce.

Since 6th August we have also been piloting a dedicated service through the Citizens Advice in Bolton and our Croydon Contact Centre for customers who need more in-depth information regarding their immigration applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201725/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-23/debates/AFC7E55B-9796-4FDA-8BB6-9EBDC7CCDAE2/Windrush>

Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [202881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to point six of the Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances, what criteria his Department will use to assess a reasonable degree of evidence; and whether evidence supplied as part of this scheme will be (a) used for any other purpose by the Home Office, and (b) shared with other Government Departments.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Taskforce has adopted a flexible approach to evidence in helping people to establish and demonstrate their immigration status under the Windrush Scheme. The Home Office will adopt the same flexible approach in considering requests for support in urgent and exceptional circumstances and will provide assistance to applicants in considering what information they might provide to support their request.

Evidence supplied by applicants in requesting such support will only be taken into account by the Home Office for the purposes of a future compensation claim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202881/>

The Windrush Scheme referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Martyn Day (SNP) [186400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it Government policy to enable employers to make (a) the required Settled Status payments directly to his Department on behalf of employees and (b) ensure that such support is not treated as a benefit in kind.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is a matter for individual employers as to whether they wish to pay the EU Settlement Scheme fee on behalf of an employee.

In terms of employers choosing to reimburse their staff for the cost of applying to the settlement scheme, taxation rules are not a matter for the Home Office. However, HMRC has advised that in situations like these, where an employer pays or reimburses their employees' application costs, such a payment would be taxable as earnings from their employment and may also attract a National Insurance contributions (NICs) charge. However, employers can also choose to meet the cost of this tax and NICs charge for their employees. For many employers this can be managed within their existing arrangements with HMRC, using a PAYE Settlement Agreement (PSA) which allows employers to make one annual payment to cover all the tax and NICs due on minor, irregular or impracticable expenses or benefits for their staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-31/186400/>

Government Departments: EU Nationals

Alison McGovern (Labour) [200126] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent estimate he has made of the number non-UK EU citizens employed by in each Government Department as a (a) civil servant and (b) contractor.

Reply from Oliver Dowden: The numbers of non-UK EU citizens employed by as civil servants and contractors is not consistently collated across Government, therefore it is not possible to provide an overall number.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200126/>

Civil Service: EEA Nationals

Alison McGovern (Labour) [200128] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what restrictions there would be on the employment by civil service of EEA in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Oliver Dowden: EU and EEA citizens who are currently employed in the Civil Service, will continue to be able to work and play a full role in the Civil Service, as they do now, following the UK's exit from the EU. This will also be the case in the unlikely event of a no deal scenario.

As with all UK employers, the Civil Service needs to ensure that future recruitment is compliant with immigration laws.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200128/>

Treasury: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203245] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of an UK passport.

Outsourced workers are not employees of HM Treasury and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The number of non-UK EU citizens employed across the Civil Service is not consistently collected across Government. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the Treasury.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the Treasury and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees in the Treasury, and will continue to engage with them over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203245/>

The following four questions all received the same answer but from different Ministers

Department for Transport: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203342] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Department of Health and Social Care: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203251] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the

£65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203253] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Department for Education: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203340] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Chris Grayling/Caroline Dinenage/Jake Berry/Anne Milton: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status Fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of an UK passport.

Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The number of non-UK EU citizens employed across the Civil Service is not consistently collected across Government. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the department.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the Civil Service and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the Civil Service, the important engagement with EU national networks across government will continue over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203342/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203251/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203253/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203340/>

Department for International Trade: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203339] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of

the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from George Hollingbery: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status Fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of an UK passport.

Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department of International Trade, and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The number of non-UK EU citizens employed across the Civil Service is not consistently collected across Government. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the Department.

We value the significant contribution made by non-UK national EU citizens working in this department, and across the wider Civil Service, and want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service after the UK has left the EU. We are committed to supporting our employees who are non-UK nationals and EU citizens. The important engagement with EU national networks in this department and across the wider Civil Service will continue over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203339/>

Department for Work and Pensions: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203343] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of her Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in her Department; what estimate she has made of the total cost to her Department of paying those fees; and what assessment she has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in her Department.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees.

Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The numbers of non-UK EU citizens employed by DWP is not collected. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by this department.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the Civil Service and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the Civil Service. The important engagement with EU UK networks across government will continue over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203343/>

Department for International Development: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203344] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of her Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in her Department; what estimate she has made of the total cost to her Department of paying those fees; and what assessment she has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in her Department.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay application fees to Home Civil Servants (HCS) for Settled Status. Outsourced

workers are not DFID employees, and this will be the decision of their employers. As at 31 October 2018, 107 Home Civil Servants (HCS) have declared their nationality as non-UK EU nationals, although this information is provided on a voluntary basis. The estimated costs to DFID of paying settled status application fees would equate to £6,955, based on this voluntary declaration.

DFID values the significant contribution made by EU citizens working for the department and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the Civil Service and the important engagement with EU national networks across government will continue over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203344/>

Emigration: EEA Nationals and EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [201699] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of non-UK (a) EU and (b) EEA citizens leaving the UK in each of the last three years.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of migration to and from the UK by citizenship annually, using data collected from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The IPS is the prime source of long-term international migration data, providing estimates of both inflows and outflows, but it does not cover all migration types. The IPS is a continuous voluntary survey conducted at all principal air and sea routes and the channel tunnel. It is a sample survey and the resultant figures are grossed up by weighting factors dependent on route and time of year. The figures produced are therefore estimates, not exact counts. The latest estimates were published November 2018.

Table 1 shows the estimated number of non-UK EU and EEA citizens leaving the UK in the last 3 years together with confidence Intervals (CI).¹

Though part of neither the EU nor EEA, Switzerland is part of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) so its citizens have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA citizens, so we have included Switzerland in our estimate for the EFTA.

Year	EU		EEA		EFTA	
	Estimate	CI +/-	Estimate	CI +/-	Estimate	CI +/-
2017	140,200	20,000	142,300	20,000	143,200	20,000
2016	110,900	26,000	112,100	26,000	112,200	26,000
2015	79,500	13,200	80,700	13,200	81,700	13,200

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/internationalpassengersurvey407sexbyagebycitizenship>

² All figures rounded to the nearest hundred

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-14/201699/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [202076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Immigration Rules Appendix EU paragraph 15(a) and (b), in cases where there is an existing deportation or exclusion order at the date of application, whether caseworkers will make a case-by-case assessment of current threat in accordance with Article 27 of Directive 2004/38/EC prior to a refusal or granting of

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [202077] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, with reference to Immigration Rules Appendix EU paragraph 15(a) and (b), where evidence arises that could lead to the issue of a deportation or exclusion order, if the assessing caseworker will make a case-by-case assessment of current threat in accordance with Article 27 of Directive 2004/38/EC prior to refusal or granting of settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union, criminality and security checks will be carried out on applications for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and any conduct (including any criminal convictions relating to it) before the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020 will be assessed according to the current EU law public policy and security tests for deportation or exclusion. These are set out in the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016, in accordance with Article 27 of the Free Movement Directive.

Consistent with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, an applicant will be refused status under the scheme on the grounds of suitability where, at the date of decision, the applicant is subject to a deportation order or a decision to make a deportation order, or to an exclusion order.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202076/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202077/>

Immigration Rules Appendix EU, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-eu>

Directive 2004/38/EC, referred to above, can be read at

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:158:0077:0123:EN:PDF>

The draft Withdrawal Agreement, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756374/14_November_Draft_Agreement_on_the_Withdrawal_of_the_United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Northern_Ireland_from_the_European_Union.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [202078] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Immigration Rules Appendix EU paragraph 15(c), and pursuant to the Answer of 19 November 2018 to Question 192820, what evidence of exercise of Treaty rights his Department requires for eligibility under the settled status scheme.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [202079] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Immigration Rules Appendix EU paragraph 15(c) and pursuant to the Answer of 19 November 2018 to Question 192820, in what circumstances an applicant will be refused status on grounds of non-exercise of Treaty rights.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme for which Appendix EU to the Immigration Rules provides reflects the breadth of provision made by the Free Movement Directive for rights of residence. These include rights of permanent residence with less than five years' continuous residence in particular circumstances, and retained rights of residence where particular criteria are met. In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union, these are reflected in the requirements for eligibility for status under the scheme contained in Appendix EU.

The draft Withdrawal Agreement does not protect those who are not exercising or are misusing free movement rights. Consistent with this, an applicant will be

refused status under the scheme where they are subject, at the date of decision on the application, to a removal decision under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 on the grounds of non-exercise or misuse of those rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202078/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202079/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192820/>

Immigration Rules Appendix EU, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-eu>

The draft Withdrawal Agreement, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756374/14_November_Draft_Agreement_on_the_Withdrawal_of_the_United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Northern_Ireland_from_the_European_Union.pdf

EU Nationals: Health Services

Jo Stevens (Labour) [191947] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens applying for settled status will be charged the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens and their family members who apply to the EU Settlement Scheme will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-15/191947/>

Refugees: Children

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [199927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Department has taken to honour its commitment to implement the Dubs amendment; what assessment he has made of whether his Department has met that commitment.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to work very closely with participating States France, Greece and Italy, local authorities and delivery partners to relocate the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 as soon as possible. Over 220 children are already in the UK and transfers are ongoing.

We recently took the positive decision to remove the date criterion for the referral of unaccompanied children in Europe to be relocated to the UK under section 67. Participating States will now be able to refer the most vulnerable children whose best interests are served by relocation to the UK, regardless of when they arrived into Europe. We expect this to increase the rate of referrals from participating States. Relocation of eligible children to the UK is also dependent on the availability of appropriate local authority care placements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-06/199927/>

Refugees: Children

Keith Vaz (Labour) [201116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children were granted leave to enter the UK under the Calais Child Refugee scheme in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As part of the UK's comprehensive support to the

clearance of the Calais camp, the Government transferred 769 unaccompanied children to the UK from 1 October 2016 – 15 July 2017, all of whom claimed asylum on arrival in the UK.

On 30 November 2017, the Government published data on the numbers of children transferred to the UK from the Calais camp clearance. Of the 769 children who came to the UK from Calais, 220 were transferred in accordance with section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Children continue to be relocated to the UK from France, Greece and Italy under section 67, up to the specified number of 480. The remaining 549 children were transferred from Calais to reunite with eligible family members already in the UK.

The Government has introduced bespoke forms of leave for those transferred to the UK to reunite with family as part of the Calais camp clearance and under section 67 who do not qualify for international protection. Individuals who qualify for these forms of leave will have the right to study, work, access public funds and healthcare, and can apply for settlement in the UK after five years under section 67 leave and ten years under Calais leave. Grants of section 67 leave and Calais leave continue to be issued to eligible individuals. We will publish details on the form of leave granted to those transferred from Calais under section 67 and to reunite with eligible family once all cases have been assessed.

We also continue to meet our commitments to transferring unaccompanied children present in another EU Member State with qualifying family in the UK, under the EU Dublin Regulation for the purpose of assessing their asylum claim. We publish regular data on transfers under the Dublin process, and the next data publication will be in February 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201116/>

The data referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663664/Transfers_of_children_to_the_UK_from_Calais_operation.ods

Refugees: Calais and Dunkirk

Helen Hayes (Labour) [198320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the treatment of refugees in the Calais and Dunkirk regions by police.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Much of the UK's relationship with France on illegal migration is governed by the Sandhurst Treaty, signed in January 2018. The Treaty provides for joint cooperation to improve security infrastructure at the shared border in northern France, to reduce illegal migration flows and to provide support to the most vulnerable. This includes a programme of work to support access into asylum accommodation in France and a Dublin Regulation Development Fund. The UK has committed a package of €50 million to implement this work, which is overseen by the official UK-France Migration Committee. Our two countries continue to undertake regular and routine ministerial and senior official discussions regarding migration across our shared border and our cooperation under the Sandhurst Treaty. However, the actions of French law enforcement on their sovereign territory remain a domestic matter for the French Government and as such the British Government is not consulted on their activities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-03/198320/>

The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [196688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on migrants illegally crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Sandhurst treaty signed by the PM in January demonstrates the commitment of the UK and France to manage our shared border and deliver enhanced joint action to disrupt and dismantle the Organised Immigration Crime gangs behind irregular migration. We continue to hold regular bilateral discussions on all issues relevant to the Sandhurst Treaty via the UK-France Migration committee, the latest meeting of which took place in London on 30 November.

The UK and France have also agreed to the establishment of a joint centre in Coquelles to combat crime associated with illegal border crossing and the trafficking of vulnerable persons.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196688/>

The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [201229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been received by his Department in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release, on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, broken down by quarter, in table as_01_q (Asylum, volume 1)

Latest edition available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758192/asylum1-sep-2018-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201229/>

Asylum: Applications

Kate Green (Labour) [202127] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many new asylum applications were submitted by people who had previously been refused asylum in the UK in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: If a person who has previously been refused asylum in the UK raises new reasons to claim asylum, this will be recorded as a Further Submission rather than a new asylum application. Home Office records note that between 1 January 2018 and 30 September 2018, a total of 6,195 Further Submissions were lodged by 5,847 persons who had previously been refused asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202127/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [202740] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance were made by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2018.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [202741] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance by asylum applicants were made during the first instance procedure under the (a) regular (b) accelerated (c) border and (d) Dublin

procedure categories in the UK in 2018.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [202742] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure resulted in a grant of legal assistance in 2018.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The information requested is not held by the Legal Aid Agency (LAA).

The LAA does not record data about the volumes of citizens who request this type of legal assistance, as the application process for the type of legal aid applicable to the matters described is devolved to the appointed solicitor. Where a client is found to be eligible for legal aid in a case of the kind enquired about, this information is reported subsequently to the Legal Aid Agency.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202740/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202741/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202742/>

Yemen: Asylum

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [197626] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps is he taking to enable Yemeni Nationals seek asylum in the UK after the closure of the British Embassy in Yemen.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have a proud history of providing protection for those who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention. All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered so that we do not return anyone who faces persecution or serious harm in their country. However, in line with the approach taken by other signatories to the Refugee Convention, we do not consider asylum claims lodged outside the UK and there is no provision in our Immigration Rules for people to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum. Those who need international protection should claim in the first safe country they reach that is the fastest route to safety.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-30/197626/>

Asylum: Nationality

Kate Green (Labour) [202128] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the five most common nationalities of asylum applicants were; and how many applications were received from nationals of those five countries in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics re-lease, on the number of asylum applications received in the UK, by nationali-ty (table as_01_q Asylum, volume 1)

The latest data cover the period up until 30 September 2018, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758192/asylum1-sep-2018-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202128/>

Asylum: Torture

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [202763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications were made by victims of torture in each of the last eight years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not record the information in such a way that allows us to report on how many asylum applications were made

by victims of torture in each of the eight last years.

The Home Office does publish data which provides the total number of asylum applications for main applicants, by country of nationality, broken down by year. This can be found in tab as_01 at volume 1 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release:

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

All officials making decisions on asylum claims receive a dedicated five-week foundation training programme which includes specific sections on torture and medical reports and ensure alleged victims of torture are assessed fairly and sensitively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202763/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Torture

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [202764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of Government guidelines for processing asylum applications from victims of torture.

Emma Reynolds (Labour) [202766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what definition of torture his Department uses to assess asylum claims.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have a proud history of granting protection to those who need it. All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits. Where someone has a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm they are offered protection and not expected to return to their country.

We have published detailed Home Office guidance for caseworkers on how to assess asylum claims, which includes guidance on what amounts to persecution, defined as a serious violation of basic human rights in the Refugee or Person in Need of International Protection (Qualification) Regulations 2006.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/2525/contents/made>

There is no single definition of torture used to assess asylum claims as caseworkers must consider whether a person faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin.

Before guidance is published, we consult with key partners, including UNHCR, to ensure it reflects our obligations under the Refugee Convention. The guidance is also reviewed regularly to ensure it takes account of developments in refugee caselaw. The guidance is available on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/considering-asylum-claims-and-assessing-credibility-instruction>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202764/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202766/>

Asylum

Catherine West (Labour) [201230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are currently living in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the UK's resident population is a matter for the Office for National Statistics. The Home Office does not publish estimates on the number of asylum seekers currently living in the UK.

The Home Office does however publish quarterly breakdowns of the number of asylum applications pending a decision (including dependants), in table as_02_q (asylum, volume 2) of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

Latest edition available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758195/asylum2-sep-2018-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201230/>

Asylum: Glasgow

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [202861] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seeker households have been accommodated in each postcode area in Glasgow.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202861/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [202134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average period of immigration detention was for minors seeking asylum in 2018.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [202135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average period of immigration detention was for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Almost all asylum claims are processed in the community. Individuals will have their claim processed in detention only if they have claimed asylum after having been detained for removal, or if they present public protection concerns. Accompanied or unaccompanied asylum seeking children are not detained in these circumstances.

Information on people entering detention by age, sex and place of initial detention (as at year ending September 2018) is available in table dt_01_q of the detention tables, which can be found in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics', available from the Home Office website at:

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

The table shows the figures broken down by those people who have claimed asylum at some point in the past.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202134/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202135/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Families

Helen Hayes (Labour) [202136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection were received (a) in total and (b) from each nationality in 2018.

Helen Hayes (Labour) [202137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions were made on applications for family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection in 2018; and how many of those decisions were to (a) accept and (b) reject the application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not record information specifically on “family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection”. Information relating to refugee family reunion applications received in total, from each nationality and how many were accepted in 2018 is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics:

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

All those issued a family reunion visa are granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, not asylum. The family reunion application process does not require an assessment of the applicant’s international protection needs. It is the family member in the UK that is required to have been granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202136/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202137/>

Asylum: Employment

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202855] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were granted permission to work in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers are not allowed to work in the UK unless their claim has been outstanding for at least 12 months through no fault of their own.

The data requested on the number of asylum seekers granted permission to work in 2018 is only held on paper case files or within the notes sections of the Home Office's databases. Therefore, the number of asylum seekers granted permission to work is not held in a reportable format

Those who are granted permission to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which can be found in the Immigration Rules Appendix K: shortage occupation list

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202855/>

Asylum: Voluntary Work

Keith Vaz (Labour) [200562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support his Department provides to asylum seekers that seek to volunteer in their local communities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Whilst the Home Office does not provide specific support, we do encourage asylum seekers to undertake volunteering activities, which can provide a valuable contribution to their local community and may help them to integrate into society if they qualify for protection.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200562/>

Asylum: Finance

Catherine West (Labour) [201228] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support mechanisms his Department has in place to support asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office ensures asylum seekers are not left destitute by providing appropriate support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The support package usually consists of free, furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash

allowance to meet other essential living needs. But those who find accommodation through friends or relatives may be provided with the allowance only.

The level of the allowance, currently set at £37.75 per week for each person in the household, is reviewed each year to make sure it is sufficient to cover essential living needs.

The most recent assessment of the adequacy of the asylum support rates is set out in a report published in March 2018, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201228/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202854] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were accommodated in each asylum reception centre in the UK at the end of 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for free accommodation and cash support to cover their essential living needs whilst their cases are considered. If they have an emergency need for accommodation they can ask to be put in initial accommodation whilst their support applications are being processed (asylum seekers receive section 98 support while in initial accommodation).

Quarterly data, correct as to September 2018, regarding the number of residents in initial accommodation is included in the published statistics, which can be found on data table volume 4 at;

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

The Home Office does not publish data for each separate initial accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202854/>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [202863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many single parent asylum-seeking families are sharing accommodation provided by Serco.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The use of individual properties across provider's portfolios changes daily subject to demand.

Information on the current number of properties shared between single parent families could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual provider property records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202863/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [202865] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in Scotland have been affected by Serco's decision of 27 July 2018 to issue 7 day lock change eviction notices to asylum seekers that have had their asylum support discontinued.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [202866] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in Scotland will be affected by Serco's decision of 27 July 2018 to issue 7 day lock change eviction notices to asylum seekers that have had their asylum support discontinued.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers who are assessed as being

destitute are provided with accommodation until their asylum claim and any appeal is finally determined

Serco informed 17 people that their accommodation support was ending with 21 days' notice. These service users were no longer entitled to financial support or accommodation as their claims had been decided.

We are unable to provide data for people who will be affected as claims are continually progressing and asylum seekers are able to submit further submissions at any time during the process.

We continue to work closely with Serco and Glasgow City Council to monitor cases that are awaiting a legal decision and Serco have decided to pause the issuance of further lock-change notices whilst this previously untested area of Scottish housing law is clarified through the Courts.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202865/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202866/>

Asylum: Detainees

Helen Hayes (Labour) [202133] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average period of immigration detention was for detained asylum seekers in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history of providing refuge to those who need our protection. Almost all asylum claims are processed in the community. Individuals will have their claim processed in detention only if they have claimed asylum after having been detained for removal, or if they present public protection concerns.

The department currently does not record the information on the criteria as set; how long the average period of immigration detention was for detained asylum seekers in 2018.

Information on people entering detention by age, sex and place of initial detention (as at year ending September 2018) is available in table dt_01_q of the detention tables, which can be found in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics', available from the Home Office website at:

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

The table shows the figures broken down by those people who have claimed asylum at some point in the past.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202133/>

Immigrants: Detainees

David Linden (SNP) [201716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) victims of trafficking (b) victims of torture and (c) people with other special reception needs were detained in the UK in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All decisions to detain individuals, or to maintain the detention of individuals that are considered to be particularly vulnerable to harm in immigration detention, are made in line with the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (AAR) policy, found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>.

The AAR policy has strengthened our focus on vulnerability, and the existing presumption against the detention of those who are particularly vulnerable to harm in detention. Decisions on whether or not to detain individuals have never been predicated on absolute exclusions for any particular group. There will always

be occasions on which it will be appropriate to detain particular individuals. Decisions to detain are made on a case-by-case basis through the striking of a balance between any vulnerabilities identified and the immigration factors of a case. Only where the immigration factors outweigh the level of risk identified under the adults at risk policy, will detention be maintained. For this reason, individuals will not necessarily be released from detention because they have been identified as an adult at risk. Individuals identified as an adult at risk may in any case be released from detention for other reasons, such as a casework barrier to their removal.

The Detention Service Order 'Management of Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention 08/2016' found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-of-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>

provides requirements and guidance for the Home Office and staff in Immigration Removal Centres in the safeguarding and risk management of individuals considered 'at risk'. This Detention Service Order compliments several others which may be applicable to an 'at risk' or vulnerable person detained in the immigration detention estate. All Detention Service Orders can be accessed through the Gov.uk website.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201716/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detainees: Medical Examinations

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were referred for assessment under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 in each month of 2018 up to 2 July 2018.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been referred for assessment under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 in each month in 2018 since 2 July 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office do not hold central records of the number of individuals in Immigration detention that are referred for, or that self-refer for Rule 35 assessments.

Medical records for individuals in Immigration detention are confidential and are not routinely shared with the Home Office unless the individual has consented to share this information. This includes appointments and assessments with a medical practitioner. Notification of Rule 35 assessments, which are carried out by Doctors, are therefore not routinely shared with the Home Office.

The Home Office do however, centrally record the number of Rule 35 reports raised by Doctors under the Detention Centre Rules 2001. This information is published quarterly in Immigration Enforcement Transparency data found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-november-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201160/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201161/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Detainees: Medical Examinations

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201220] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people referred for assessment under Rule 35 of Detention Centre Rules 2001 during each of the first six months in 2018 were identified as victims of torture by a Rule 35 report.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people identified as a victim of torture by a Rule 35 report were subsequently released within 28 days of that report being made in each of the first six months of 2018.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201222] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people referred for assessment under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 as amended by Detention Centre Rules (Amendment) 2018 were identified as being victims of torture in each month since 2 July 2018.

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in immigration detention identified as a victim of torture by an assessment under Rule 35 of Detention Centre Rules 2001 as amended by the Detention Centre Rules (Amendment) 2018 were subsequently released within 28 days of the Rule 35 report being made in each month since 2 July 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office do not hold central records of the number of individuals in Immigration detention that are referred for, or that self-refer for Rule 35 assessments. Medical records for individuals in Immigration detention are confidential and are not routinely shared with the Home Office unless the individual has consented to share this information. This includes appointments and assessments with a medical practitioner. Notification of Rule 35 assessments, which are carried out by Doctors, are therefore not routinely shared with the Home Office.

The Home Office also do not hold central records which make the distinction between those accepted/not accepted as being victims of torture within the Rule 35 process under the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

We therefore cannot currently report on the number of individuals referred for a Rule 35 assessment that were identified as victims of torture, or the number of individuals identified as victims of torture that were released within 28 days of a Rule 35 report without reviewing individual cases. In any event, it cannot be said that those released within 28 days of a Rule 35 report were released solely because of a claim of torture.

The Home Office do however, centrally record the number of Rule 35 reports raised by Doctors under the Detention Centre Rules 2001 and the number of those who were released as a result. This information is published quarterly in Immigration Enforcement Transparency data found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-november-2018>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201220/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201221/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201222/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201223/>

Detainees: Medical Examinations

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [201253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many rule 35 reports were issued by medical practitioners at each immigration removal centre in each of the past three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of Rule 35 (1), (2) and (3) reports submitted between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2018, broken down by IRC

is published in Migration Transparency data found at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201253/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [201224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to assess the effect of the Detention Centre Rules (Amendment) 2018 on victims of torture in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office keeps its policies and processes relating to immigration detention and the detention of vulnerable persons under regular review to ensure they are both appropriate and effective.

As part of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's review into the welfare of vulnerable people in detention, the Home Office is looking at improvements to the rule 35 consideration process to ensure that the most vulnerable and complex cases get the attention they need, while preventing abuse of this important safeguard.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201224/>

The Government response referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492227/gov_paper_2.pdf

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [201248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many referrals to the National Referral Mechanism for those who are detained for immigration purposes there have been; and how many of those referred were (a) released and (b) kept in detention.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency, found at

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community. The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change. The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews and consequently, a change in circumstance may result in a different consideration. It is quite possible that an immigration detainee is referred to the National Referral Mechanism during a detention period and is released into the community at any point during that process.

The decision to detain, or maintain detention of individuals that have been referred to the NRM is made in line with the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (AAR) policy. Consequently, the decision to release an individual because of vulnerabilities highlighted in an NRM referral, is also considered in line with this policy and is recorded as such on central records.

The Home Office does not currently centrally record any particular indicator of risk under the AAR policy. This is because the AAR policy is based on evidence levels rather than level of risk and there are currently no indicators of risk which are considered more significant than others. The Home Office therefore, currently, centrally record the relevant level of evidence under the policy, rather than the indicator(s) of risk.

In light of the above, we are therefore unable to directly report on the number of NRM referrals for those who are detained for immigration purposes there have been and of those, who many were released from detention, or for whom their detention was maintained.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201248/>

Detainees: Self-harm and Suicide

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [201251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of (a) suicide and (b) self-harm requiring medical treatment occurred at each immigration removal centre in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Any death in immigration detention is subject to investigation by the police, the coroner (or Procurator Fiscal in Scotland) and the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

In the period 1 January 2016 to 30 September 2018 there has been one death of an individual detained under immigration powers, that has been determined by a coroner as a suicide on the balance of probabilities. This death occurred at The Verne immigration removal centre (IRC).

On 29 November the Government published additional information on those held within the immigration detention estate in direct response to the statement made by the Home Secretary on 24 July. This included data on the number of deaths in immigration detention in 2017.

Staff at all immigration removal centres are trained to identify those at risk of self harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. All incidents of self harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and Detention Services Order 06/2008 Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

Self harm incidents requiring medical treatment in each IRC for the last three years are shown in the table below. This is provisional management information that has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

Immigration Removal Centre	2016	2017	2018 to 30 June 2018
Brook House	53	54	34
Campsfield House	19	19	5
Colnbrook	61	62	69
Dungavel House	1	11	4
Harmondsworth	90	100	108
Morton Hall	54	113	54
The Verne	26	27	Closed
Tinsley House	3	4	8
Yarl's Wood	33	59	7

These are the number of incidents of self harm requiring medical treatment; they do not necessarily equate to the number of individuals requiring medical treatment as one individual may have received treatment on more than one occasion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201251/>

British Nationality: Deportation

Jo Stevens (Labour) [201189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many UK citizens have been wrongly deported by his Department since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The requested information was disclosed in a letter

from Sir Philip Rutnam KCB Permanent Secretary to the Home Affairs Select Committee earlier this year. A copy of the letter was placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180514-Home-Office-Permanent-Secretary-Immigration-Enforcement.pdf>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201189/>

Deportation

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [190741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department last returned a person to an overseas country that the individual had not resided in since they were aged four years old or younger.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our enforcement policy is founded on the expectation that those with no right to be in the United Kingdom should return home. We expect such persons to leave voluntarily but where they do not, we will seek to enforce their departure. Individuals may raise Article 8 human rights grounds why they should not be removed from the UK and this must be considered, including their age on arrival in the UK and the length of time spent in the UK if that is part of their claim. There is a right of appeal against an adverse decision. Returns are only enforced where both the Home Office and the courts are satisfied that an individual has no right to remain in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-13/190741/>

Slavery: Victim Support Schemes

Siobhain McDonagh (Labour) [202031] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2018 to Question 196679 on Slavery: Victim Support Schemes, whether he plans to adopt directly the Human Trafficking Foundation's slavery and trafficking survivor care standards or introduce standards based on those produced by the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to ensuring minimum standards of care in the new victim care contract. Compliance with a minimum standard of care will be monitored using an inspection regime, which will be based on the Human Trafficking Foundation's Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202031/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196679/>

Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes

Siobhain McDonagh (Labour) [202032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2018 to Question 196680 on Human trafficking: victim support schemes, whether there will be a public consultation on any future decisions on subsistence rates paid to people supported through the Victim Care Contract.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Government is committed to ensuring that potential victims of modern slavery receive the right amount of financial and material support to meet their needs during their reflection and recovery period. There are no current plans to do a public consultation on the future subsistence rates.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202032/>

The answer referred to above can be read at <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196680/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers: Removal

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to halt the removal of failed asylum seekers to countries to which the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise against all travel for British citizens; and if not, why not.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice to British nationals is not the correct legal test to determine whether a person qualifies for international protection or whether to remove a foreign national with no right to remain in the UK.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: I am delighted to wish the Minister a happy Christmas. I only ask her: when will I be able to do that to those who have indefinite detention in the UK under the present immigration law? That is my first question. My second question is: when are we going to end deportation to Congo, Afghanistan and Somalia of those who have come from there? Our people are not encouraged to go there at all; they are advised not to go there, and yet we keep on deporting people. We have deported 700 to Afghanistan, nearly 100 to Somalia and many more to Congo in the last couple of years. Is it not time the Minister stopped trying to defend our humanitarian policies, when all they are doing is sending people into war zones where many face the death penalty?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, that is a gross exaggeration of the fact. The noble Lord conflates two things, which are the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's advice to people travelling for holidays and other reasons and our obligations under the 1951 convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. He asks about indefinite detention. There is no indefinite detention. Most cases are sorted out within four months. As for people being deported, the FCO does not advise against travel to the whole of the countries the noble Lord mentions—Congo, Somalia and Afghanistan. It only advises against travel to parts of those countries. Also, when we send people back who have no legal right to be here, we do so with the humanitarian considerations that I have outlined in mind.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour): My Lords, perhaps I may press the noble Baroness further on her comment about humanitarian considerations. How is an assessment of individual safety undertaken if someone is being removed to another country? I refer in particular to their political activities, their gender or their sexual orientation. When someone is returned to another country, what follow-up is undertaken to ensure that they are indeed safe?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said to the noble Lord, the UK bases its decisions on two conventions, the 1951 convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. If, for example, an LGBT person was to be sent back to a country or to an area in a country where they would be persecuted for their sexuality, we would not send them back.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, how does the Minister define the word "indefinite"? In my dictionary, it means that there is no fixed time limit. We are unusual in this country in having no fixed time limit for detention. It does not mean that people are held in detention for ever, as she seemed to imply in her response to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: People are not held in detention for ever. As I said to the noble Lord, the vast majority of cases are determined within

four months of someone being held in detention. I do not know of anyone who has been detained indefinitely.

The Earl of Listowel (Crossbench): My Lords, do not these questions highlight the extremely sensitive judgments that caseworkers in her department have to make? Would she consider arranging for Members of your Lordships' House to visit caseworkers to hear from them about their experience, how well they are supported and how much time they are given to make these very important and delicate decisions?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally agree with the noble Earl that these decisions are incredibly sensitive, in particular when it comes to the things mentioned by the noble Baroness, Lady Smith, such as political activities, sexuality and even religion, which has been mentioned many times in this House. I will be happy to meet the noble Earl. I do not know if I will be able to arrange for him to visit caseworkers, but I will be happy to outline for him the framework in which we make decisions.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, is the Minister confident that the Home Office's country policy and information notes are always accurate and reliable? I understand that information is taken from a number of sources and that that can include newspapers from the country of origin. However, they may be countries where the regime interferes with press freedom.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can assure the noble Baroness that we are mindful of our human rights obligations. Our caseworking decisions go through three lines of scrutiny, and over the past few months we have indeed improved the scrutiny and decision-making processes. I am confident that the system we now have in place is far better and more humane than perhaps is the case with some of the criticisms that have been levelled at the Home Office in the past. The Windrush episode has reminded us carefully about how we should treat people who come to this country.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: My Lords, I apologise for coming back to the noble Baroness, but this is a point for clarification. I do not have a dictionary to hand, but I think that she has confused the word "indefinite" with "for ever". All the word "indefinite" means is that there is no time limit. Does that mean that she is now willing to set a time limit so that detention would not be indefinite?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The word "indefinite" means for all time.

Noble Lords: No!

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not defined by time. What I would say is that we endeavour to determine applications as quickly as possible and we would certainly not want anyone to be detained indefinitely on our estate.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-17/debates/DBBC4755-A0BD-451B-AD57-941B27A26991/AsylumSeekersRemoval>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Lord Willoughby de Broke (Non-affiliated) [HL12054] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to make criticism of immigration a criminal offence.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to make criticism of immigration a specific criminal offence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-04/HL12054/>

Immigration

Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Independent Labour) [HL12088] To ask Her Majesty's

Government when they expect net migration to reduce to under 100,000 per year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We remain committed to reducing net migration to sustainable levels. Net migration has fallen since peaks in 2015 and 2016 and we will continue to reform our immigration routes to ensure that they work in the best interests of the country.

We will shortly be publishing an Immigration White Paper which will contain the principles for our new immigration system. We are ending free movement and designing a system that will work in the national interest.

We have been clear that the UK will always be open to those who bring valuable skills, experience and investment to the UK and our economy. We will continue to pursue immigration policies that are selective about who makes the greatest contribution to our country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-05/HL12088/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL12096] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to adopt the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and if so, what assessment they have made of the impact of such an adoption, particularly in relation to whether doing so would make any criticism of immigration a criminal offence; and whether they have any plans to mitigate any such impact on freedom of speech.

Reply from Lord Bates: Well-managed migration is in everyone's interests. But uncontrolled migration erodes public confidence, damages economies, and places those on the move in situations of great vulnerability. The UK is taking significant steps to tackle uncontrolled migration both in our domestic policy work and in our ODA-funded programmes by:

- Addressing the root causes of migration, through our targeted assistance for livelihoods, healthcare, education and economic development;
- Tackling modern slavery and organised immigration crime
- Supporting enhanced border management
- Providing critical humanitarian support and protection for vulnerable migrants, as well as offering voluntary return and vital reintegration support to those wishing to return home
- Supporting refugees to stay in a first safe country through our humanitarian and development work in Africa, the Middle East and Asia

The Global Compact for Migration is one way in which we are working to ensure that UK migration priorities are embedded throughout the international system. It is a step forward in international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and helpful framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Compact is not legally binding. It creates a framework that will allow countries to work together to make migration more beneficial for everyone. It protects every State's right to determine its own immigration policies, including in areas such as asylum, border controls and returns of illegal migrants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-05/HL12096/>

The Global Compact referred to above can be read at

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Lord Balfe (Conservative) [HL12099] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they

intend to sign the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Reply from Lord Bates: Well-managed migration is in everyone's interests. But uncontrolled migration erodes public confidence, damages economies, and places those on the move in situations of great vulnerability. The UK is taking significant steps to tackle uncontrolled migration both in our domestic policy work and in our ODA-funded programmes by:

- Addressing the root causes of irregular migration, through our targeted assistance for livelihoods, healthcare, education and economic development;
- Tackling modern slavery and organised immigration crime
- Supporting enhanced border management
- Providing critical humanitarian support and protection for vulnerable migrants, as well as offering voluntary return and vital reintegration support to those wishing to return home
- Supporting refugees to stay in a first safe country through our humanitarian and development work in Africa, the Middle East and Asia

The UK Government is supportive of the UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Compact is one way in which we are working to ensure that UK migration priorities are embedded throughout the international system. It is a step forward in international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and helpful framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Compact is not legally binding. Instead, it creates a framework that will allow countries to work together to make migration more beneficial for everyone. It protects every State's right to determine its own immigration policies, including in areas such as asylum, border controls and returns of illegal migrants.

My colleague, the Right Hon. Alistair Burt MP, attended the formal intergovernmental launch event in Marrakech on December 10.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-06/HL12099/>

The Global Compact referred to above can be read at

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL12358] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Buscombe on 29 June (HL8775), when they will publish the findings of their monitoring of the supported handover process for refugees.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: This was an internal evaluation and therefore we do not plan to formally publish the findings.

However, we intend to write to the Work and Pensions Select Committee in the New Year detailing our findings and our response to the Committee will, as is usually the case, be placed in the public domain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12358/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-19/HL8775/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12235] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants they have detected trying to enter the UK illegally via the English Channel in the last 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Border Force does not routinely

publish this level of data. All our transparency data can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/border-force-transparency-data-november-2018>

[Border Force Transparency Data - Nov 2018](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/border-force-transparency-data-november-2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12235/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12237] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current status of people who have been found to have entered the UK illegally via the English Channel; and of those who have since claimed asylum, whether their applications for asylum are affected by their method of entry.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have a proud history of granting protection to those who need it. All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits and protection is granted where someone has a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm on return to their country. As part of the asylum decision-making and consideration process, case-workers must consider factors set out in section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Treatment of Claimants etc. Act 2004, which may affect the credibility of an asylum seeker, for example, where they have chosen to travel through safe countries to reach the UK or failed without good reason to claim at the earliest opportunity. However, no-one who faces persecution or serious harm in their country is returned there.

Those who enter the UK without permission are illegal migrants and liable to removal, but no one will be removed where they have protection needs or until any asylum claim has been decided and any appeal rights exhausted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12237/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12238] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who entered the UK illegally via the English Channel have been deported in the last year for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The latest published statistics on returns can be found online on the www.gov.uk website.

Deportations are a subset of enforced returns. They may occur either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available. Published statistics refer to enforced returns, which include deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers who have declined to leave voluntarily. Most illegal immigrants are removed from the UK under administrative or illegal entry powers and not deported.

The Home Office does not separately record the method of entry of those who are returned and as such the information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12238/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

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

Undocumented Migrants: Finance

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12239] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support is offered to those who have entered the UK illegally and are awaiting

the outcome on their application for asylum.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office ensures asylum seekers are not left destitute by providing appropriate support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The support package usually consists of free, furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs. But those who find accommodation through friends or relatives may be provided with the allowance only.

The level of the allowance, currently set at £37.75 per week for each person in the household, is reviewed each year to make sure it is sufficient to cover essential living needs (the legal test).

The most recent assessment of the adequacy of the asylum support rates is set out in a report published in March 2018, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>.

[Report on the Review of cash allowance](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12239/>

Asylum: Iran

The Lord Bishop of Leeds [HL12150] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Iranian citizens made asylum applications in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, and (4) 2018; and how many applications have been granted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release, on (a) the number of applications in the UK (table as_01_q Asylum, volume 1), and (b) the number of applications that were granted (in the same table), by nationality.

Latest edition available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758192/asylum1-sep-2018-tables.ods

Year	Iranian nationals		
	Total applications	Total grants	Grant rate
2015	3,242	1,532	55%
2016	4,184	1,456	37%
2017	2,570	1,260	47%
2018 (to end Sept)	1,977	706	40%

Note that initial decisions are based on date of decision and do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. For example, a decision in 2017 may relate to an application made in 2016.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-10/HL12150/>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL12032] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposal from the Lift the Ban coalition to permit asylum seekers to seek employment six months after arriving in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and this Government is committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system.

Our current policy is consistent with EU law and asylum seekers are permitted to work, in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, if they have been waiting for a decision on their claim for 12 months or more and the delay is through no fault of their own. This approach aims to maintain the distinction between those who need protection and those who want to come to the UK to work, who can apply for a

work visa under the Immigration Rules. It is essential that we avoid creating further incentives for migrants to come here illegally, risking their lives in the process, instead of claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach. The Government is considering recent calls to change the current policy and reviewing the evidence available. Additionally, we are tackling delays in decision making and have plans in place to improve the speed at which outstanding claims are decided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-04/HL12032/>

Housing: Asylum

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL11962] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, under asylum accommodation contracts, they will include housing providers in the list of public authorities with a duty to refer under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 creates a duty on certain named public authorities to refer people to local authorities who may be at risk of becoming homeless.

Consideration has been given to making the Home Office a named public authority for these purposes in circumstances where a person is leaving asylum accommodation following a grant of refugee status. However, it was considered unnecessary to do this because asylum accommodation providers are already under a contractual duty, which predated the 2017 Act, to refer these cases to the appropriate local authority.

Asylum seekers who are granted refugee status become eligible to receive assistance with housing from their local authority in the same way as British Citizens or other permanent residents of the UK and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-03/HL11962/>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL11963] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that temporary accommodation provided for asylum applicants is safe, hygienic, and of a reasonable standard.

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/2018-12-03/HL11963/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12230] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their planned timescale for the national rollout of the Independent Child Trafficking Advocates Scheme in 2019.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In July 2018, the Government announced that it would roll out the Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) service to one third of local authorities by April 2019. Following this expansion of the service, we estimate that one third of all children referred into the

NRM will be eligible to access the ICTA service in England and Wales. Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs, is being considered in the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations about ICTAs which come out of the review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12230/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commissions-independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Children

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12231] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made in the last six months of the causes behind child victims of trafficking going missing shortly after the point of referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12232] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken, if any, to assess the links between organised crime networks, re-trafficking and children who go missing from care after being referred to the National Referral Mechanism.

Slavery: Gangs

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12233] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability on 20 November (187328), why they do not publish data on the number and proportion of successful referrals that have been made to the National Referral Mechanism as a result of gang involvement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The unaccompanied asylum seeking (UASC) Safeguarding Strategy, published in November 2017, included a commitment to pilot a standardised process for police when they first encounter an unaccompanied child, to inform effective practice in preventing UASC from going missing. Hertfordshire Police successfully implemented their First Encounter Pilot which has reduced missing incidents of the children it identified. It is now available to all forces nationally; to date 12 forces have begun implementing the process.

We are working to deliver a National Register of Missing Persons (NRMP) and for it to be in operation in 2020/2021. The Home Office is working to update the Government's Missing Children and Adults Strategy, which was published in 2011. The refreshed strategy will be accompanied by an implementation plan that will include an action to deliver the NRMP.

On 16 January 2017, the Home Secretary announced £2.2m from the Child Trafficking Protection Fund. This has been awarded to seven organisations to protect vulnerable children in the UK and overseas who are at risk of trafficking.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) regularly publishes National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data but does not publish data about the number, proportion and referrals that have been made to the National Referral Mechanism as result of gang involvement. Latest statistics on NRM referrals and decisions are available at the following link:

<http://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2018-nrm-statistics>

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2018-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12231/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12232/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12233/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-02/187328/>

The Safeguarding Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656425/UASC_Safeguarding_Strategy_2017.pdf

The Missing Children and Adults Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf

Human Trafficking: Children

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12283] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difference in needs between (1) children who have been trafficked from overseas, and (2) British children who have been trafficked internally; and how the current provision of support differs between those two groups.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government introduced Independent Child Trafficking Advocates in three early adopter sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and nationally in Wales). The service has been running in these sites from January 2017 until January 2019. An interim assessment of the first year of the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) service (February 2017 – January 2018) and associated data tables were published in July 2018 and can be found

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730098/assessment-of-independent-child-trafficking-advocates-horr101.pdf

In July 2018, the Government announced that it would roll out the ICTA service to one third of local authorities by April 2019. Following the expansion of the service, around one third of all children that we estimate will be referred into the NRM will be eligible to access the ICTA service in England and Wales.

Assessment of Independent Child Trafficking

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12283/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commissions-independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-2015>

Human Trafficking: Children

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12284] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) longest, (2) shortest, and (3) average waiting time for victims of child trafficking to receive positive conclusive grounds decisions from the National Referral Mechanism for each year since the Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Crime Agency (NCA) regularly publishes National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data. It does not publish data about the time taken for victims of child trafficking to receive positive

conclusive grounds decisions for each year since the Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force. Latest statistics on NRM referrals and decisions are available at the following link:

<http://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2018-nrm-statistics>

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2018-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

NCA National Mechanism Stats - April-June 2018

2018 - UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12284/>

Human Trafficking

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL12285] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on reforming the National Referral Mechanism since October last year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The delivery of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) reform programme is a key priority for this Government. Over the past year, significant progress has been made to build the infrastructure required for these ambitious reforms to be implemented by April 2020. An NRM reform newsletter is distributed to interested stakeholders on a regular basis with updates on the programme.

Further information is available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which was published on 18 October 2018:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2018-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>
UK Annual Report - Modern Slavery 2018

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12285/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: English Channel

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12234] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent trafficking of migrants from France to England via the English Channel.

Lord Empey (Ulster Unionist) [HL12236] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of France about preventing the use of the English Channel by people smugglers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works closely with partners in the UK and overseas to combat people smuggling at source and target the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration.

The Sandhurst Treaty signed by the Prime Minister in January demonstrates the commitment of the UK and France to manage our shared border and deliver enhanced joint action to disrupt and dismantle the groups behind illegal border crossing and the trafficking of vulnerable persons. A new joint centre was opened in Calais in November 2018 to further improve our coordinated approach.

Our two countries continue to undertake routine ministerial and senior official contact regarding migration across our shared border and our cooperation under the Sandhurst Treaty.

Border Force is taking a range of actions to address clandestine crossings of the Channel, including stepping up deployments of coastal patrol vessels along the South East coast.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12234/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12236/>

The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf

Press Releases

EU Settlement Scheme pilot

The EU Settlement Scheme pilot is now closed. Applications for the scheme will reopen on 21 January 2019. The scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019. If you have any questions, contact the [Settlement Resolution Centre](#) on 0300 123 7379 or by using the [online form](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-applicant-eligibility>

Home Secretary announces new skills-based immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-skills-based-immigration-system>

Protecting EU citizens

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-eu-citizens/>

Information and advice for EU citizens: Additional help to stay in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/information-and-advice-for-eu-citizens/>

EU citizens in the UK: benefits and pensions in a 'no deal' scenario

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-citizens-in-the-uk-benefits-and-pensions-in-a-no-deal-scenario>

EU Settlement Scheme rolled out to public test phase

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-settlement-scheme-rolled-out-to-public-test-phase>

Children in migration must be informed about their rights

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/children-in-migration-must-be-informed-about-their-rights>

Statement by the European Commission and the High Representative on International Migrants Day 2018

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6823_en.htm

States must ensure all migrants enjoy all human rights, UN experts say on International Migrants Day

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24027&LangID=E>

Migrants: 'A powerful driver' of economic growth, 'dynamism and understanding'

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028701>

UN affirms 'historic' global compact to support world's refugees

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028791>

General Assembly officially adopts roadmap for migrants to improve safety, ease suffering

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028941>

New Publications

The UK's future skills-based immigration system

Full document

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Summary

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-future-skills-based-immigration-system/future-skills-based-immigration-system-executive-summary>

Technical paper to accompany the 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' economic appraisal: Annex B

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-paper-to-accompany-the-the-uks-future-skills-based-immigration-system-economic-appraisal-annex-b>

Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1849, 20 December 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766896/CCS207_CCS1218217528-001_Immigration_Rules_HC_1849_PRINT_.pdf

Immigration health surcharge: policy equality statement

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767213/IHS_Policy_Equality_Statement_signed_doc.pdf

Continue to live in the UK after it leaves the EU: webtool

<https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen>

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to the Home Affairs Committee regarding update on phased implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain UK immigration status

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1309/letter_-_Immigration_Minister_to_HASC_Chair-EU_Settlement_Scheme.pdf

Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss confederation on citizens' rights following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and the free movement of persons agreement

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1297/Agreement_between_UK_and_the_Swiss_Confederation.pdf

Explanatory Information

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1297/Explainer_-_Swiss_citizens_rights_agreement_.pdf

Agreement on arrangements between Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the EEA Agreement and other agreements applicable between the United Kingdom and the EEA EFTA States by virtue of the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1297/Agreement_on_arrangements_Iceland_Liechtenstein_Norway_UK.pdf

Explanatory information

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1297/Explainer_-_UK-EEA_EFTA_Separation_Agreement.pdf

Tier 4 Pilot Evaluation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766531/tier-4-pilot-evaluation-2018.pdf

Annex: Expiries and departures for pilot students for 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 academic years

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766186/annex-tier-4-pilot-evaluation.pdf

UK asylum, migration and integration fund 2014 to 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-2014-to-2020>

Asylum, migration and integration fund: documents and guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund-documents-and-guidance>

Asylum accommodation: replacing COMPASS

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/1758/1758.pdf>

Policy Statement: Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush Scheme - Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf)

Detention Services Order 05/2018 Mobile phones, internet enabled devices, and cameras

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765191/Mobile phones and cameras in immigration removal centres.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765191/Mobile_phones_and_cameras_in_immigration_removal_centres.pdf)

Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: First interim report: The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765256/independent-msa-review-interim-report-1-iasc.pdf

Police data sharing for immigration purposes: a super complaint prepared by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767396/Super-complaint_181218.pdf

Appendix 1: Chief Constable's Council Paper: Information Exchange regarding Victims of Crime with No Leave to Remain

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767718/Appendix_1.pdf

Appendix 2: Domestic Abuse Inquiry – Published written evidence Excerpts of relevance for Police/Home Office firewall supercomplaint

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767721/Appendix_2.pdf

Appendix 3: HMIC Review on Police Response to Domestic Violence and Abuse. Submission by Southall Black Sisters

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/767727/Appendix_3.pdf

How to convey child-friendly information to children in migration

<https://rm.coe.int/how-to-convey-child-friendly-information-to-children-in-migration-aha/1680902f91>

News

Immigration: White Paper sets out post-Brexit rules for migrants

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46613900>

The post-Brexit immigration plans at a glance

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/19/the-post-brexit-immigration-plans-at-a-glance>

Tories plan £30,000 salary threshold for migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cap-on-skilled-migrants-to-be-scraped-fkmhgw2sc>

Javid rows back on plans for £30,000 immigrant salary threshold

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/19/javid-rows-back-on-plans-for-30000-salary-threshold-for-migrants-brexit-immigration>

Immigration White Paper sets out foreign worker rules after Brexit

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/19/immigration-white-paper-sets-foreign-worker-rules-brexit/>

Brexit: New rules still offer visas to low-skilled migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-17/news/new-rules-still-offer-visas-to-low-skilled-migrants-9t23tg5ps>

Tens of thousands of low-skilled EU migrants will continue to come to UK under White Paper plan

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/19/tens-thousands-low-skilled-eu-migrants-will-continue-come-uk/>

Nicola Sturgeon brands UK Government immigration plans 'act of vandalism' on Scottish economy

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17309647.nicola-sturgeon-brands-uk-government-immigration-plans-act-of-vandalism-on-scottish-economy/>

Nicola Sturgeon says new immigration policy is an 'act of vandalism'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-says-new-immigration-policy-is-an-act-of-vandalism-1-4846342>

Scottish Government calls for immigration to be devolved post-Brexit

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-calls-for-immigration-to-be-devolved-post-brexit-1-4847226>

Immigration plans denounced as 'an act of vandalism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/immigration-plans-denounced-as-an-act-of-vandalism-dx6c5t9dz>

Business leaders warn against plan to slash EU immigration to UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/17/business-leaders-warn-against-plan-slash-eu-immigration-uk-sajid-javid>

Post-Brexit migration system 'will be sucker punch to UK economy'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/19/post-brexit-immigration-system-sucker-punch-uk-economy-white-paper>

Government still committed to net migration target - Brokenshire

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46597637>

This white paper doesn't 'change the debate'. It treats migrants as things
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/19/white-paper-migrants-windrush-dehumanising-rights>

Ministers face legal challenge over child nationality data
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ministers-face-legal-challenge-over-child-nationality-data-9bsmtl8pq>

Home Office has spent £6 million on Windrush scandal response
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-has-spent-6-million-on-windrush-scandal-response-1-4845180>

Windrush hardship fund to offer sums of up to £5,000 to victims
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/17/windrush-hardship-fund-to-offer-sums-of-up-to-5000-to-victims>

Windrush scandal: Three victims wrongly removed from UK flown back after 'exceptional' help, Sajid Javid admits
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-scandal-immigration-sajid-javid-home-office-jamaica-flights-hostile-environment-a8687586.html>

New £800,000 scheme launched to support EU citizens living in Scotland post-Brexit
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17305112.new-800000-scheme-launched-to-support-eu-citizens-living-in-scotland-post-brexit/>

Gloom for 200,000 from EU who came to live in Scotland
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17306881.gloom-for-200000-from-eu-who-came-to-live-in-scotland/?ref=mr&lp=4>

Burden of refugees is not spread fairly, councils say
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-17/news/burden-of-refugees-is-not-spread-fairly-councils-say-2npqng3j>

Brexit: How has immigration changed since the referendum?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46618532>

The threat to scrap 'golden visas' risks alienating investors
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-threat-to-scrap-golden-visas-risks-alienating-investors-vf95jtb68>

How Home Office is blocking Glasgow's efforts to provide true asylum
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/how-home-office-is-blocking-glasgow-s-efforts-to-provide-true-asylum-martyn-mclaughlin-1-4845914>

Local authorities could stop housing asylum seekers, MPs warn
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/17/local-authorities-could-stop-housing-asylum-seekers-mps-warn>

Britain's asylum dispersal system at risk as councils threaten to quit, warn MPs
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/17/britains-asylum-dispersal-system-risk-councils-threaten-quit/>

Home Office criticised for deleting records on death of detainee
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/20/home-office-criticised-for-deleting-records-on-death-of-detainee>

Home Office accused of 'denial and obfuscation' after deleting records on death of immigration detainee

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-detention-denial-deleting-records-death-michal-netyks-poland-a8693121.html>

Legal bid to block "discriminatory" landlord checks on immigrants

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17303860.legal-bid-to-block-discriminatory-landlord-checks-on-immigrants/>

Brexit: alarm bells ring for business at thought of losing skilled foreign workers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17304360.brexit-alarm-bells-ring-for-business-at-thought-of-losing-skilled-foreign-workers/>

Javid could amend rules now to protect refugee children

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/javid-could-amend-the-rules-now-to-stop-refugee-children-having-to-make-dangerous-journeys-to-reach-families-zt50f8sxd>

Medical colleges criticise charging migrants for NHS care

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/20/medical-colleges-criticise-charging-migrants-for-nhs-care>

Home Affairs Committee releases damning review of asylum accommodation contracts

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3381_home_affairs_committee_releases_damning_review_of_asylum_accommodation_contracts

Scots at the sharp end of Brexit's white paper immigration crackdown

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/insight-scots-at-the-sharp-end-of-brexit-s-white-paper-immigration-crackdown-1-4848090>

Will Brexit result in more 'Skype families'?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46621762>

'He'll watch our daughter open her presents over Skype': Families forced to spend Christmas apart due to UK immigration rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-rules-families-split-children-husband-wives-migrants-workers-visas-a8695046.html>

Britain's latest immigration policy is a cruel veto on love

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/21/britain-immigration-policy-income-brexit-eu-europeans>

White Helmet rescue workers swap Assad terror for mince pies in Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/white-helmet-rescue-workers-swap-assad-terror-for-mince-pies-in-britain-rqcdtg5wn>

International Migrants Day 2018

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3382_international_migrants_day_2018

Golden wedding missed over Home Office lost passports

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-46584960>

MP slams 'callous' bid to deport Chinese woman living in Scotland for 16 years

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/mp-slams-callous-bid-to-deport-chinese-woman-living-in-scotland-for-16-years-1-4845306>

Home Office u-turns on deporting former convict turned prison reformer
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-deportation-order-reverse-hilary-ineomo-marcus-prison-reform-activist-a8691326.html>

Charity volunteer faces deportation
<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/charity-volunteer-faces-deportation>

Vegan Chinese takeaway owner allowed to stay in Scotland after 8000 people sign petition
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/vegan-chinese-takeaway-owner-allowed-13746537>

'I'm an asylum seeker. I've not been allowed to work for three years'
<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2018/dec/22/im-an-asylum-seeker-ive-not-been-allowed-to-work-for-three-years>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Community Relations

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [202771] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to fulfil his Department's responsibilities for the promotion of community cohesion.

Reply from Jake Berry: The Government is committed to building strong, more integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, learn, work and socialise together based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities.

In March, we published our *Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper*. We intend to publish shortly the Government's response to the consultation on the Green Paper including a new action plan to help build thriving, liveable and resilient places where people get along and where everyone can progress.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202771/>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

EU Nationals: Community Relations

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [191874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with European embassies based in the UK on the treatment of European citizens by UK citizens in the UK since the EU referendum 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Ministers have engaged with EU and EFTA Ambassadors on a range of issues relating to the treatment of their citizens since the 2016 referendum.

The Government continues to engage closely with Ambassadors on crucial issues for EU citizens in the UK, to ensure that they are treated fairly and with respect.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-15/191874/>

News

It's wrong to treat British Muslims as a racial group

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/it-s-wrong-to-treat-british-muslims-as-a-racial-group-9xj8bf0vx>

'I wouldn't choose to be brought up by white parents again'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-46544904>

The Muslim families donating to food banks for Christmas

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-46623082>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Travellers: Human Rights

Caroline Lucas (Green) [201212] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to protect the rights of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma in his Department's response to the consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised development.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Government departments have an ongoing responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010. When formulating policy following consultation, ministers must have due regard to achieving the objectives of eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Ministry of Justice will work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Home Office to agree policy proposals for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201212/>

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [202869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to assess the (a) rights of children and (b) the effect on children of the eviction of Gypsy and Traveller communities in his consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised development.

Reply from Nick Hurd: I refer the Hon. Member to the answer I gave to the Hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston on the 7 December 2018, UIN 197400.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Ministry of Justice, and the Home Office carried out a joint consultation on the effectiveness of powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments.

All government departments have an ongoing responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010. As such, when formulating any policy changes following the consultation, ministers must have due regard to the three limbs of the PSED: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, and (3) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202869/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/197400/>

Owner Occupation

Jo Stevens (Labour) [201698] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of inequalities in home ownership by (a) social class, (b) age and (c) ethnicity.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: In July 2018, the department published an English Housing Survey report which examined, among other things, the extent to which certain groups are more or less likely to own their own home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2016-to-2017-variations-in-housing-circumstances> .

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201698/>

Universities: Pay

Afzal Khan (Labour) [202859] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to encourage universities to tackle their BME and intersecting gender pay gaps.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: As independent and autonomous institutions, higher education institutions are responsible for decisions about who they employ and the pay offered to their staff.

All employers with over 250 employees are now required to report their gender pay gap data. The transparency created through reporting is crucial to accelerating progress to close the gender pay gap.

Through her Race Disparity Audit, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister has asked employers to commit to tackling barriers facing ethnic minorities in the workplace and has launched a consultation on ethnicity pay reporting, which is open until January.

In the New Year, government will be announcing a package of measures to address disparities that affect both ethnic minority staff and students in higher education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202859/>

Information about the Race Disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/race-disparity-unit/about>

Press Release

Tackling social isolation and loneliness

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tackling-social-isolation-and-loneliness/>

New Publications

A Connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections

<https://tinyurl.com/y97yn3uo>

Fairer Scotland Action Plan Progress Report 2018

<https://tinyurl.com/y7ahqbqx>

Black journalists call on editors to improve diversity in newsrooms

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/22/black-journalists-denounce-lack-of-diversity-in-newsrooms>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Government Freedom of Information Release

Number of people convicted of standalone hate crime offences under Racially aggravated harassment

Information requested:

1. The categories of crimes which the Scottish Government includes within its definition of 'hate crimes';
2. The numbers of convictions in Scotland in the last 3 calendar years for which data is available for these crimes and how that number is broken down among the different crimes;
3. The criteria that are used to assess whether or not the crime is motivated by religious hatred;
4. The numbers of convictions in Scotland in the last 3 calendar years for which data is available for hate crimes (i.e. the answer to request 2 above) where the primary motivating factor for those crimes is religious hatred as defined in the answer to request 3 above.

Response

1, 3. While there is no statutory definition of a 'hate crime', the term is used to describe behaviour which is both criminal and rooted in prejudice.

In Scotland, the law currently recognises hate crimes as motivated by prejudice for statutory aggravations based on:

- Race: section 96 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998,
- Religion: section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003,
- Disability: section 1 of the Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009,
- Sexual orientation and transgender identity: section 2 of the Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009.

Prejudice or hostility also lies at the heart of some other offences which are often described as 'hate crimes'. These are sometimes referred to as standalone hate crime offences and they criminalise behaviour specifically because it is motivated by racial prejudice. Currently, these standalone offences include:

- Racially aggravated harassment: section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995;
- Stirring up of racial hatred: sections 18 to 22 of the Public Order Act 1986;

2, 4. The number of people convicted with an aggravator (including: *Disability/Racial/Religious/Sexual Orientation/Transgender*) recorded against the main charge and the number of people convicted with an aggravator recorded against main charge by crime type can be found in tables 12 and 13 of the *Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2016-17* (available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics-publication/2018/02/criminal-proceedings-scotland-2016-17/documents/00532010-pdf/00532010-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>).

The number of people convicted of standalone hate crime offences under Racially aggravated harassment: section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act

1995¹ and Public Order Act 1986 s18-22¹ is provided in the table below.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 Section 50a(1)(A)&(5)	21	20	13	17	29	14	20	23	24	26
Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 Section 50a(1)(B)&(5)	873	922	831	839	900	919	847	819	727	600
Public Order Act 1986 Section 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Public Order Act 1986 Section 19	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
All	894	942	844	856	930	934	869	844	751	626

¹ – where main crime

Source: Criminal Proceedings Database

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-18-03495/>

UK Parliament Debate

Islamophobia

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-20/debates/2F954D45-1962-4256-A492-22EBF6AEF8F0/Islamophobia>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions: Antisemitism

Q3. John Mann (Labour): For almost 400 years, this country, almost uniquely in the world, has been a place of safety and security, and a place where Jewish communities have thrived. In 2018, many in the Jewish community are questioning whether that will be the case into the future. A disturbingly large number of young Jewish people are questioning whether they should remain in this country. Does the Prime Minister agree that 2019 has to be a year when we all stand up and be counted, to ensure that those young Jewish people believe in and stay in this country, wishing to contribute and no longer fearing for their future? [908281]

The Prime Minister: I absolutely agree with the hon. Gentleman. Jewish people should be able to feel safe and secure in this country. I never thought I would see the day when Jewish people living in this country questioned whether they should stay in this country. This is a terrible state of affairs that we have come to. There is no place for racial hatred in our society and it is important that we all take every step to tackle it. I was very pleased to host the reception for the recent groundbreaking Sara conference, organised by the hon. Gentleman and the all-party group on antisemitism, along with the Antisemitism Policy Trust, which looked at the twin evils of misogyny and antisemitism. The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right to talk about the need for us all—every one of us—to stand up as

we go into the new year and say that 2019 will be the year when we stand up and say there is no place for antisemitism or racial hatred in our society.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-12-19/debates/95198CCA-FCDA-43FD-958B-B9BCD567C0DE/Engagements#contribution-D3ACE96E-39BD-4D4A-8246-FBF0A1D9DC0B>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [199928] To ask the Attorney General, what assessment he has made of trends in the number of cases of alleged hate crimes ending before going to court as a result of such complaints being withdrawn.

Reply from Robert Buckland: In 2017-18, the number of non-convictions due to complainant retraction was 188, down from 198 the previous year. This accounted for 1.3% of all completed hate crime prosecutions. The Crown Prosecution Service is working closely with criminal justice partners to ensure the support offered to complainants and witnesses in hate crime cases is tailored to meet their individual needs.

The majority of hate crime prosecutions (75.4%) result in a guilty plea from defendants, reducing the need for complainants and witnesses to give evidence in court. However, where live evidence is required, the CPS is committed to supporting them to give their best evidence. This includes consideration of whether they would benefit from special measures such as giving evidence behind a screen or via a video link.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-06/199928/>

Hate Crime and Radicalism: Internet

Lucy Powell (Labour Co-op) [199414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding the Government has provided to organisations tackling online extremism and hate crime in each of the last five years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Over the last five years the Government has committed to funding a range of organisations tackling online extremism and hate crime.

This has included: over £450k to MOPAC for a London Hate Crime Hub through the Police Innovation Fund; £200k for the first year of the police National Online Hate Crime Hub which went live in January 2018; alongside £100k to the Police to support the TrueVision website for hate crime reporting. As part of the response to online extremism under the Counter Extremism Strategy, we have provided £272,419 in grant funding for Civil Society Organisations through the Building a Stronger Britain Together Programme.

There has also been funding to tackle broader issues than online extremism and hate which would have benefit for both issues. For example, over £1.8m funding to tackle online harassment through the Office for Students.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-05/199414/>

Information about the Building a Stronger Britain Together Programme can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>

Castes: Discrimination

Bob Blackman (Conservative) [908344] What progress the Government has made on repealing the duty under the amendment to section 9 of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to caste discrimination.

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: We intend to legislate to repeal the caste duty as soon as we have a suitable legislative vehicle and parliamentary time, and we

expect to publish guidance on caste and the Equality Act before the summer.

My Hon Friend will know that I have been determined to ensure this issue is resolved since I became Minister for Women and Equalities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/908344/>

Charities: Ethnic Groups

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [201720] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his policies of the finding in The Grant Givers' Movement report that trusts and foundations have a serious problem of bias against some charities led by people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Reply from Mims Davies: The government believes firmly in the value and importance of diversity in the charity sector, including on boards and amongst trusts and foundations. I am confident that this view is shared by the sector, and that trusts and foundations will be looking at the findings of this report to identify what further action is needed and where lessons can be learned.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201720/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/0cd318_096bd55a4f7f410e896646af6d3e86aa.pdf

Radicalism

Afzal Khan (Labour) [202858] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to tackle far right extremism.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the 2015 Counter Extremism Strategy the Government is committed to tackling extremism in all its forms and protecting our communities from the serious social harms it causes. This includes defeating far right extremism.

We have:

- created a network of more than 240 civil society partners confronting extremism in their communities - including 36 focused on countering far right narratives – through the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme;
- awarded over 160 grants to fund additional security measures for places of worship across England and Wales since 2016;
- excluded and refused entry to the UK to known right wing extremists; and
- supported Local Authorities in tackling far-right extremism.

The Home and Communities Secretaries will also co-chair roundtables on Islamophobia and antisemitism in the new year, with part of the discussions focusing on the impact of the far right on Muslim and Jewish communities

The independent Commission for Countering Extremism is also supporting the Government to defeat the scourge of extremism.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202858/>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470088/51859_Cm9148_Accessible.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religious Hatred

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL12195] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 5 December (HL11727), what

support they will give to Nissar Hussain and his family and others who have left the Islamic faith and are facing persecution in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government reiterates that everyone in Britain has the right to feel safe and at ease in the place where they live. Any individual or group is free to express views and beliefs, but have a duty to behave responsibly and to respect other people's rights as defined by the law. Freedom of speech, freedom of worship, democracy, the rule of law, and equal rights define us as a society, and the Government is determined to promote these values. Britain has a strong legal framework in place to deal with hate crimes, and these must be reported to the police.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-11/HL12195/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-22/HL11727/>

Antisemitism: EU Countries

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL12217] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights report on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU; and what action they intend to take in response.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The findings of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights report on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU show clearly that we cannot be complacent in the fight against antisemitism, or hate crime of any form.

The Government has shown its commitment to tackling antisemitism, as the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016, and we remain alive to issues of concern in Jewish communities through our Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Antisemitism.

In the recently refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan, we have reinforced this by supporting work to develop counter-narratives to those that fuel antisemitism, and continuing to prioritise tackling antisemitism in our policy work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12217/>

The report referred to above can be read at

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-experiences-and-perceptions-of-antisemitism-survey_en.pdf

The definition of antisemitism referred to above can be read at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Football: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL12169] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to work with sports authorities to help reduce discriminatory abuse in UK soccer following several recent reports of alleged racial abuse.

Reply from Lord Ashton of Hyde: Tackling discrimination is at the heart of the cross-government sport strategy "Sporting Future" and we want sport to be at the forefront of equality. We fully support a zero tolerance stance and we will continue to work with National Governing Bodies of Sport and organisations such as Kick It Out, Stonewall and Women in Football to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport.

Pupil Exclusions

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL11980] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of children excluded from school for racist bullying in England and Wales in the last year; and what assessment they have made of the implications of such bullying and exclusions for social and community cohesion.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The most recent data from academic year 2016/2017 show that there were 25 permanent exclusions (0.3% of all permanent exclusions) and 4,565 fixed period exclusions (1.2% of all fixed period exclusions) recorded with the reason of 'racist abuse'. This includes derogatory racist statements, racist bullying, racist graffiti, racist taunting and harassment and swearing that can be attributed to racist characteristics. The data can be sourced from the National Tables spreadsheet (table 4), published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2016-to-2017>

Racism has no place in our schools and any incident is unacceptable. The department supports head teachers using exclusion where it is warranted.

The government want to make sure that all children learn the values that underpin our society – including fairness, tolerance and respect. These values help knit our communities together, which is why education is at the heart of the government's integration strategy. All state funded schools have a legal obligation to promote community cohesion.

The government has committed to providing over £2.8 million of funding from September 2016 to March 2020 to four anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes the Anne Frank Trust, which we are funding to develop and deliver their 'free to be' debate programme. The programme encourages young people to think about the importance of tackling prejudice, discrimination and bullying.

In November 2018, the department published the attached 'Respectful School Communities' publication, a self-review and sign-posting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind.

In March 2018, the government launched an externally led review of exclusions practice, chaired by Edward Timpson CBE. The review is exploring how head teachers use exclusion, and why pupils with particular characteristics are more likely to be excluded from school. It is also considering the differences in exclusion rates across primary and secondary schools in England.

The full terms of reference for the review are attached.

[HL11980_Respectful_School_Communities_publication_A_Review_of_School_Exclusion-terms_of_reference_HL](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-03/HL11980/>

Press Releases

Equality Commission seeks to reverse 'right to rent' in Scotland and Wales

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-commission-seeks-reverse-%E2%80%98right-rent%E2%80%99-scotland-and-wales>

Members of banned British neo-Nazi group jailed

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/members-banned-british-neo-nazi-group-jailed>

New Publications

Defining Islamophobia

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Defining-Islamophobia.pdf>

Does the Crown Court Discriminate Against Muslim-Named Offenders? A Novel Investigation Based on Text Mining Techniques

<https://academic.oup.com/bjc/advance-article/doi/10.1093/bjc/azy062/5239583>

News

Boris Johnson 'cleared of breaking Tory rules' over burka comments

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46641106>

Boris Johnson cleared over burqa comments

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/20/boris-johnson-cleared-over-burqa-comments>

Boris Johnson cleared of wrongdoing in burka row as QCs uphold right to free speech

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/20/exclusive-boris-johnson-cleared-wrongdoing-burka-row-qcs-uphold/>

The Tories have let Boris off the hook – and in doing so proven the party is riddled with Islamophobia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/boris-johnson-islamophobia-niqab-conservative-party-tories-sayeeda-warsi-a8695281.html>

Boris Johnson cleared by party over burka joke

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-21/news/boris-johnson-cleared-by-party-over-burka-joke-gkxk2dmdb>

Conservative Party Gives License to Bigotry

<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/conservative-party-gives-license-to-bigotry/>

Labour MP Ivan Lewis resigns as he accuses Jeremy Corbyn of failing to deal with anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/20/labour-mp-resigns-accuses-jeremy-corbyn-failing-deal-anti-semitism/>

Labour MP sorry for backing musician accused of anti-Semitism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46652775>

Labour MP sorry for backing musician accused of anti-Semitism

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/labour-mp-sorry-for-backing-musician-accused-of-anti-semitism-1-4847857>

Labour MP apologises for backing 'antisemitic' jazz musician

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/dec/21/labour-mp-chris-williamson-apologises-for-backing-jazz-musician-gilad-atzmon>

Diane Abbott: Twitter has 'put racists into overdrive'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/18/diane-abbott-calls-for-twitter-to-clamp-down-on-hate-speech>

Diane Abbott urges Twitter to tackle 'racist and misogynist' abuse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/18/diane-abbott-urges-twitter-tackle-racist-misogynist-abuse/>

Proposed new definition of Islamophobia could see teachers forced to allow full-face veils in classrooms, warns Trevor Phillips

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/20/proposed-new-definition-islamophobia-could-see-teachers-forced/>

Up to 40% of Britons think BAME people do not face more discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/20/up-to-40-of-britons-think-bame-people-do-not-face-more-discrimination>

National Action trial: Members of neo-Nazi group jailed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-46592080>

Neo-Nazi couple who named baby after Hitler jailed for terror group membership

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/neo-nazi-couple-who-named-13749777>

National Action: Neo-Nazi terrorist couple who named baby 'Adolf' jailed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-neo-nazi-couple-adolf-hitler-baby-adam-thomas-claudia-patatas-jail-court-case-a8686691.html>

Neo-Nazi couple who named their son after Adolf Hitler jailed for membership of far-Right group

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/18/neo-nazi-couple-named-son-adolf-hitler-jailed-membership-far/>

National Action couple who named son after Hitler jailed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-18/news/national-action-couple-who-named-son-after-hitler-are-jailed-kk2zmmjf7>

Offenders with Muslim names are not jailed for longer, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/dec/18/offenders-with-muslim-names-not-jailed-for-longer-study-finds>

I exposed racism at my university and got suspended

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/stories-46598275/thread-shred-i-exposed-racism-at-my-university-and-got-suspended>

Charity Commission investigating Kick It Out over staff welfare

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/46641830>

Kick It Out: Charity Commission opens investigation into bullying claims

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/kick-it-out-charity-commission-investigation-claims-bullying-a8693531.html>

Kick It Out confirm review into why 10 members of staff left amid allegation of poor working conditions

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/kick-it-out-review-allegations-bullying-staff-left-statement-poor-working-conditions-a8688776.html>

Kick It Out chief Lord Ouseley: 'I have never abused, vilified, harassed or bullied anyone'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/kick-it-out-allegations-lord-ouseley-report-latest-updates-charity-commission-a8695891.html>

Chelsea chairman hits out at ‘mindless’ fans and vows to rid club of discrimination
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/dec/18/uefa-investigate-chelsea-antisemitic-chanting-budapest>

Chelsea fan who allegedly racially abused Man City forward Raheem Sterling interviewed by Scotland Yard
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2018/12/21/chelsea-fan-allegedly-racially-abused-man-city-forward-raheem/>

Tottenham fan banned for hurling banana at Arsenal's Aubameyang
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/18/tottenham-fan-fined-for-hurling-banana-skin-at-black-arsenal-player>

Arsenal investigate claims of antisemitic behaviour by fans during Carabao Cup loss to Tottenham
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/arsenal-news-tottenham-vs-abuse-fans-antisemitism-carabao-latest-bottle-dele-alli-a8693186.html>

Arsenal to investigate antisemitism claim
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/arsenal-to-investigate-antisemitism-claim-ss92l7vc9>

Hospital charity rejects £1,000 from ‘blacked-up’ fundraisers
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/19/hospitalcharity-refuses-fundraisers-cash-blacked/>

Charity refuses cash from fancy dress fundraisers who blacked up as rappers and African beach sellers
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cuddles-black-face-fundraising-africa-beach-sellers-wales-rhyl-glan-clwyd-hospital-a8694141.html>

Charity rejects ‘racist’ pub crawl’s cash
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-21/news/charity-rejects-racist-pub-crawl-s-cash-k9d60kmcd>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15199 Kenneth Gibson (SNP): 80th Anniversary of the Launch of Kindertransport – That the Parliament commemorates the 80th anniversary of the initiation of the Kindertransport programme, which brought close to 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees escaping violence against Jews to the UK in December 1938; considers that, following Kristallnacht on 9 November that year, Jewish leaders in London petitioned the then Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, to rescue children, and it was decided that an unspecified number of Jewish children would come to the UK temporarily as refugees until the end of hostilities; understands that most of the children travelled from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the Free City of Danzig, to be fostered in the UK; notes that the very last transport from the continent, with 74 children, left the Netherlands on 14 May 1940 and travelled to Harwich, as occupation of the Netherlands was imminent with the country capitulating the next day; further notes that, sadly, often children who came to the UK did not later reunite with families as their parents had been murdered by the Nazis or their collaborators; recognises that, during the war years, many Kindertransport children served in the British armed forces, nursing

professions, in food production and in war-related industries; further recognises that several thousand remained in the UK when the war ended, and, as adults, made considerable contributions to the development of their adopted country; is aware of what it considers to be Germany's belated decision to give an estimated 1,000 elderly survivors, half of whom still reside in the UK, a very modest €2,500 (£2,249) each in compensation for their suffering, and recognises the warmth of Scotland's contribution to supporting child victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15199>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Religious Education

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-17/debates/A497B8C8-9BE9-4975-95E3-91F4748A98AC/ReligiousEducation>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Census: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [202832] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to paragraph 3.105 of the Census White Paper, what how many and proportion of the Sikh population would not accept an additional specific response option to the 2021 Census ethnic group question.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [202833] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to paragraph 3.107 Census 2021 White Paper, what proportion of Gurdwaras surveyed expressed agreement with a Sikh ethnic group tick-box.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

The recommendations on the content and conduct of the 2021 Census, published by the government in the White Paper, fully recognise the need for good data on the Sikh community, both in terms of the necessity for high-quality data from the Census and also more widely across all public services.

The survey of Gurdwaras referenced in paragraph 3.107 of the 2021 Census White Paper (Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales¹) was a survey undertaken by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs, and not the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The covering letter put a strong case for the inclusion of the tick-box. This would not be considered conducive to the collection of independent statistical evidence. It is also not clear how each Gurdwara completed the form or whether they consulted their congregations in the short timescale for the survey. From the information supplied to ONS, 112 Gurdwaras responded. Nevertheless, the survey results formed a part of the information used to make the final recommendations, as was the case for all information we received and research undertaken.

Independent research was also undertaken to understand the acceptability of the Sikh response option (within the ethnic group question) to the wider Sikh population. This is published on the Kantar website "Focus groups to consider the addition of possible new tick boxes."² It showed a specific Sikh ethnic tick-box was

not acceptable to all participants involved in the research, particularly amongst younger, second-generation participants, who felt it was unfair to include Sikh without also including all other religions within the ethnic group question. It also added respondent burden, with some respondents being confused on whether to identify as Indian, Sikh or to write in another identity such as Punjabi.

The final topics and questions to be included in the 2021 Census will be put before Parliament for approval, in the form of a Census Order in 2019 and Regulations in 2020.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

² <http://www.kantar.com/public/download/documents/227/ONS+Ethncity+Focus+Groups+Report.pdf>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202832/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202833/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765089/Census2021WhitePaper.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Animal Welfare Standards

Lord Trees (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their recent trade deal to supply 50,000 lambs killed without stunning to Saudi Arabia is consistent with their commitment to maintain animal welfare standards after Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Lords, the Government encourage the highest standards of welfare at slaughter, and have been clear that they will not water down their high animal welfare standards in the furtherance of trade. The agreement with Saudi Arabia was on the terms of the health certification for animal products and lifts a 20-year ban on lamb exports. It is not a trade deal per se. All slaughter of animals for export—whether stun or non-stun—must strictly comply with EU and UK rules on animal welfare.

Lord Trees: ... Will the Government undertake to halt further halal exports until our welfare and farming organisations, our regulatory authorities and, most importantly, the appropriate UK halal authorities, have reached agreement to follow procedures similar to the New Zealand model? Given that, our farmers could then export with confidence, and the international halal community could be reassured that it is getting meat that meets its requirements.

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: ... The issues around this are very complex. The Government would prefer all animals to be stunned before slaughter, but derogations have existed for Muslim and Jewish communities since the 1930s. However, the Government are well aware of research into stunning techniques, in particular for cattle and sheep, which may be helpful in reducing the amount of non-stunned slaughter. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we have the highest standards of animal welfare, while ensuring freedom of religious expression.

Baroness Fookes (Conservative): My Lords, I have protested about the killing of any animal without pre-stunning for more years now than I care to remember, and I am not going to stop protesting now. May I ask my noble friend not to allow the departure of animals from this country without pre-stunning?

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: I hope that my noble friend will continue protesting, and I am sure that many other noble Lords will continue to do so ...

European Council Regulation 1099/2009 protects the animals at the time of killing. However, the UK has stricter national rules through WATOK, the welfare of animals at time of killing regulations. These provide for the types of stunning that can be carried out, but also set out precisely what must happen if an animal is to be slaughtered without stunning. It is part of the slaughter process, but we slaughter 13.3 million sheep a year, and the vast majority are stunned before slaughter.

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the UK has moved a long way forward in ensuring that animals are stunned prior to slaughter, as has been indicated. Animal welfare is, rightly, an essential ingredient of our culture, both pre and post Brexit. It is therefore incomprehensible that the contract to supply 50,000 lamb carcasses to Saudi Arabia allows for their slaughter without pre-stunning. Other EU countries that allow non-stunned slaughter have measures in place to ensure that that meat is for the domestic market only. ...

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: My Lords, I would like to be clear that there is no contract for 50,000 sheep to go to Saudi Arabia. I am not entirely sure where that comes from. An export health certificate has been issued in the case of Saudi Arabia, but it has not been used, so not a single lamb has left the country, whether stunned or non-stunned. On the point the noble Baroness raised, we have our regulations within our nation, which allow both stunning and non-stunning within very strict parameters. It is for the benefit of our sheep farmers, mostly in the north of England, Wales and Scotland, that they are able to sell their sheep where they like, within the regulations.

Lord Rooker (Labour): Does the Minister not appreciate that there is no international body for certifying halal? That is why, in New Zealand, the halal authority agrees to pre-stunning. She cannot hide behind the EU, because the EU allows into Europe all the New Zealand lamb—and all of it that comes to the UK is halal, without exception. If the EU allows that in, we cannot then use the EU rules to stop our own people here deciding that we will have a halal authority which still gives the certification but allows for pre-stunning. That is the root cause of the problem: Defra should make sure that there is a halal body prepared to do that in this country, otherwise we simply would not allow the exports.

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The noble Lord is right. There is no one national authority that certifies halal meat, and to a certain extent that is part of the problem. We have one halal authority which will certify only stunned meat, one that does only non-stunned meat and one that does both. The crux of this issue is that the Government, stakeholders and religious authorities need to start working together more closely to look at the research around stunning, which has come on in leaps and bounds in terms of recoverability from stunning and therefore whether it falls within religious guidelines. We have committed to do that and we will continue to do so.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, for many years Sikhs and other communities have been concerned about the provision of a halal-only option in many schools. We are advised that it is the prerogative of the local authority. It is impossible for individuals to keep complaining. Does the Minister agree that the default position must be the provision of non-halal food, and that it is up to other religious communities if they want something different?

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The noble Lord makes a very strong point. It is the case that it is up to schools whether they provide halal meat. Many schools that have a significant proportion of pupils who are Muslims will supply halal meat, but they might be able to accommodate pupils of other faiths within their food provision. I reassure noble Lords that major retailers have supplier requirements that all meat on supermarket shelves is stunned before slaughter.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative): My Lords, I am a fellow of the British Veterinary Association and a regular visitor to auction marts in the north of England.

Does the Minister agree that the general problem is that there is meat being sold in this country as normal meat which is actually halal meat being passed off as normal meat? This is an urgent issue that has to be addressed by the Government. Will my noble friend explain to the House how the Government propose to address it?

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: I thank my noble friend for that question. I have just mentioned the actions that have already been taken by the major retailers, but the Government are well aware of public concern around meat slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs and we believe that we need to look at labelling and improve it where we can. We believe that if we can give consumers the information they require, they can make an informed choice. The Government have committed to a review of food labelling once our future partnership with the EU is clear.

Lord Winston (Labour): My Lords, I declare an interest as an Orthodox Jew. I think the Government are to be congratulated on their sensitivity to the various religious minorities that carry out their practices in this country. The Minister mentioned the problem that stunning is not by any means absolute. We see clear evidence that some animals are wounded with current levels of stunning, and more research is needed. At a time when there is very great distrust between different communities, I hope that the Minister will agree that we need to reflect on the need to have harmony in those communities at the present moment.

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: I completely appreciate the comments made by the noble Lord. That is why this is such a very complex issue. We must understand that there are religious sensitivities around this, but I am also pleased to know that research is moving on in leaps and bounds and that in certain circumstances it will be the case that some stunned meat will be certified as halal in future.

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-12/debates/80E34825-4745-4A90-A9F5-E1A1CC86EC70/AnimalWelfareStandards>

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New Publication

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre "#ReclaimTheName" Campaign Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=77&v=pAcrlPhUU

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Other News

Toblerone becomes target of far-right boycott after halal certification

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/toblerone-halal-boycott-germany-afd-switzerland-chocolate-a8692531.html>

Halal Toblerone leaves a bitter taste for far right

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-19/world/halal-toblerone-leaves-a-bitter-taste-for-far-right-6x78zf9lr>

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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>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11859&i=107284#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament

Border Control Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

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 and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

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

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/18309.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/18309.pdf>

Factsheet 1: overview

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/factsheet-1-overview>

Factsheet 2: end of free movement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/factsheet-2-end-of-free-movement>

Factsheet 3: status of Irish citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/factsheet-3-status-of-irish-citizens>

Factsheet 4: consequential power (relating to ending free movement)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/factsheet-4-consequential-power-relating-to-ending-free-movement>

Factsheet 5: social security co-ordination

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/factsheet-5-social-security-co-ordination>

Impact assessment

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/impact-assessment>

Policy equality statement (immigration)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/policy-equality-statement-immigration>

Policy equality statement (social security co-ordination)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/policy-equality-statement-social-security-co-ordination>

ECHR memorandum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/echr-memorandum>

Delegated powers memorandum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal-bill/delegated-powers-memorandum>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes next week!**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill (closing date 4 January 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/violence-against-women-team/female-genital-mutilation/>

**** closes next week!**

Shortage occupation list review 2018 (closing date 6 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754865/SOL_call_for_evidence_Final_Version_for_publication.pdf

**** closes in two weeks!**

Equality and Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022 (closing date 7 January 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work-have-your-say>

**** closes in two weeks!**

Islamophobia (closing date 11 January 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/islamophobia-call-for-further-evidence-17-19/>

**** closes in two weeks!**

Ethnicity pay reporting (closing date 11 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747546/ethnicity-pay-reporting-consultation.pdf

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Preventing and tackling forced marriage (closing date 23 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756200/Forced_Marriage_Consultation.pdf

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

**** Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Social inclusion, loneliness and belonging in society (closing date not stated)

<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B397FBE3BAF0E3E2B3>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

State of the Voluntary Sector 2018 (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SectorForecast2018>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** Stories of the New Scots**

13 January 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Interfaith Glasgow and St Mungo's Museum event to hear from some of Glasgow's New Scots about how they came to settle in Glasgow, and see a short film that tells the story of the making of the New Scots display in the museum. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/yde6ghgf>

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

15 January 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

22 January 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

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

15 January 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

22 January 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

PAiH course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier3>

**** Equalities and Hate Crime Public Awareness**

15 January 2019 in Glenrothes (6.00-8.00)

24 January 2019 in Rosyth (6.00-8.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities event to provide information about the Equality Act 2010 and how it applies to all of us, to learn about how to report hate crime and how to get advice and support, and to share any concerns you may have about something that has happened to you or someone you know. For information about the Glenrothes event see <https://tinyurl.com/y9oys32u> and the Rosyth event see <https://tinyurl.com/y9nvaczq>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

16 January 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y7aqqavn>

17 January 2019 in Stornaway (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yczkv4gm>

22 January 2019 in Dundee (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y93w7aq4>

24 January 2019 in Galashiels (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9jlfzds>

31 January 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rygo77>

6 February 2019 in Aberdeen (12.00-3.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9a9x6h8>

7 February 2019 in Shetland (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yahlmwvm>

Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation meetings to provide information about the proposals, and enable individuals and communities to give their views. For information and to book a place, please click on the relevant link above.

Discrimination Law in 2019

21 January 2019 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to provide authoritative guidance on important recent and proposed changes to discrimination legislation. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y775nbkz>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

22 January 2019 in Glasgow

28 February 2019 in Glasgow

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** BME Recruitment Event**

22 January 2019 in Glasgow (3.00-4.30)

Glasgow City Council event to increase the number of people from underrepresented communities in their catering and home care workforce. For information contact Thom Hughes 0141 287 0284 / thom.hughes@glasgow.gov.uk

**** Pass the mic: Muslim women making their voices heard**

26 January 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-1.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre workshop to support Muslim women to be leading voices by providing training on dealing with media and public speaking. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ychgaguz>

Working with Interpreters

29 January 2019 in Glasgow

7 March 2019 in Glasgow

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision, looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

5 February 2019 in Glasgow

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Disability Benefits for Migrants**

12 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to cover presence and residence tests and strategies for supporting tenants and service users through the application process for disability benefits. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Overcoming Unconscious Bias

12 February 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training to help those in positions of leadership to understand hidden factors that contribute to the success or failure of organisational policy and strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y87rbupl>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

14 February 2019 in Glasgow

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age assessment awareness

20 February 2019 in Glasgow

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** No Recourse to Public Funds**

26 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Backgrounds

5 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to increase confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of others at work, learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief

identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9bkt6e2>

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider three models that help guide our thinking, as we seek to tackle discrimination, communicate across difference and understand the relationship between our identities, our experiences and our worldview. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yd8uhfeq>

Refugee rights to housing

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging with seldom heard voices

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Inclusion Cultivation**

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/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) <https://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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