



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.

Contents

Immigration and Asylum

Community Relations

Equality

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Other UK Parliament and Government

Other News

Bills in Progress

Consultations

Job Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Events, Conferences, and Training

Useful Links

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into Modern Slavery: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/modern-slavery/oral/95163.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Illegal Immigration (English Channel)

Philip Hollobone (Conservative): What steps the Royal Navy is taking to support the Home Office in preventing illegal immigration across the English channel. [908526]

Reply from the Minister for the Armed Forces (Mark Lancaster): As the House

is aware, HMS Mersey, an offshore patrol vessel—OPV—was deployed on 3 January in support of Border Force activity in the channel. Additionally, our support includes the deployment of up to 20 suitably qualified naval personnel on Border Force cutters to provide additional capacity.

Philip Hollobone: Illegal seaborne immigration in small boats across the English channel is driven by people traffickers. The way to stop people traffickers and the illegal immigration is by returning those rescued at sea to the port from whence they came in France. Is the Royal Navy doing that?

Reply from Mark Lancaster: Migration control is, of course, not a responsibility of the Ministry of Defence or the Royal Navy; it is a responsibility of the Home Office, so my hon. Friend's question is probably better directed to the Home Secretary. In this particular case, the Royal Navy is simply supplying support under normal MACA—military aid to the civil authorities—rules.

Stephen Pound (Labour): The Royal Navy has a proud and glorious history, in respect not just of forming the wooden walls of this country, but being the nobility of Neptune's realm, and it has a proud humanitarian record. But the question related to preventing illegal immigration, so could the Minister tell us what the orders of the day are and what the Royal Navy is doing to prevent people from landing in this country?

Reply from Mark Lancaster: As I have tried to explain, migration is a matter for the Home Office. In this case, it has made a request for us to supply a vessel, HMS Mersey, to act as a platform for Border Office officers to operate from.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-14/debates/DC25D119-09C4-4E34-B096-B552D0252BEE/IllegalImmigration\(EnglishChannel\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-14/debates/DC25D119-09C4-4E34-B096-B552D0252BEE/IllegalImmigration(EnglishChannel))

Leaving the EU: Immigration

Martyn Day (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908506]

Neil Gray (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908509]

Philippa Whitford (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908512]

Deidre Brock (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908513]

David Linden (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908515]

Marion Fellows (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908517]

Drew Hendrey (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect on Scotland of UK immigration policy after the UK leaves the EU. [908519]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): ... I am in regular contact with the Home Secretary on a range of issues of importance to Scotland, including future immigration policy after the UK leaves the European Union. ...

Martyn Day: The Tories' obsession with slashing immigration to the tens of thousands will see Scotland's working-age population decline by 4.5%—that is 150,000 people—by 2041. Is the Secretary of State happy standing over such a policy that will cause economic

harm to our country?

Reply from David Mundell: The hon. Gentleman does not correctly characterise the situation. The immigration White Paper that this Government have set out is an undertaking to embark on a year-long engagement process across the whole of the UK to enable businesses and other stakeholders to shape the final details of a post-Brexit immigration policy and process.

Neil Gray: ... Immigration has been and continues to be good for Scotland. Scottish Government modelling suggests that a Brexit-driven reduction in migration will see real GDP drop by 6.2% by 2040, which has a monetary value of about £6.8 billion and a £2 billion cost to Government revenue. Does the Secretary of State believe that this cost to Scotland is a price worth paying for his Government's Brexit mess and immigration folly?

Reply from David Mundell: ... I want to make it clear that the immigration White Paper that we have published is a consultation. It is an undertaking of a year-long engagement process across the whole of the UK, including Scotland. I expect Scottish businesses, Scottish stakeholders and, indeed, the Scottish Government to play an active part in that process.

Philippa Whitford: Scrapping freedom of movement will make recruiting staff for NHS Scotland harder. Despite being paid the real living wage, lab technicians, admin staff and social care workers do not earn anywhere close to £30,000. So what did the Secretary of State do to try to convince the Home Secretary to take into account Scotland's needs?

Reply from David Mundell: I am not going to take any lectures on Scotland's needs in relation to the NHS from the hon. Lady or the SNP—a party that has put up tax in Scotland such that doctors and nurses in Scotland pay more tax than anywhere else in the UK.

Deidre Brock: I was interested to hear the Secretary of State's comments about Scottish businesses. CBI Scotland has said that White Paper proposals "don't meet Scotland's needs" and were a "sucker punch". Is it not the case that this hostile immigration policy proves that the Tory Government are anti-business?

Reply from David Mundell: I am really pleased to hear the hon. Lady supporting the CBI, because it could not have been clearer that it does not want a separate Scottish immigration policy. It wants one immigration policy for the whole United Kingdom, and I agree.

David Linden: I am sorry, but this is absolutely pathetic. We have an ageing population, and we need people to come and look after the folk at Greenfield Park care home in my constituency, for example. The Secretary of State is out of touch. When will he get a grip and understand that Scotland's immigration needs are entirely different from the London-centric policy pursued by this British Government?

Reply from David Mundell: I well understand the issues facing Scotland, and I do not believe that it would be better served by a separate immigration policy. I also do not believe that immigration into Scotland is well served by a Scottish Government who put up tax and have a poor record on infrastructure and housing.

Marion Fellows: The policy chair of the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland has said: "The UK Government's obstinate approach to immigration is a clear threat to... local communities" making it "nigh impossible for the vast majority of Scottish firms to" get the labour and skills "they need to grow and sustain their operations." With what part of that comprehensive statement would the Secretary of State care to disagree?

Reply from David Mundell: I set out in my previous answers that the immigration White Paper is a consultation. The FSB and others are contributing to it, and we will listen to them. I am clear that Scotland benefits from a UK-wide immigration policy, but I also believe that there are things that the Scottish Government could do to make Scotland more attractive.

Drew Hendry: Following the disgraceful Christmas video aimed at EU nationals and then the Government's catastrophic defeat last night, will the Secretary of State urge his

Government to end the hostile approach to our EU friends, neighbours and colleagues, who are vital to the Scottish economy and Scotland's communities?

Reply from David Mundell: I agree that EU nationals have played an enormous part in the Scottish economy and more widely in civic society. I want to give them certainty on their position, which is why I voted for the deal last night.

Ross Thomson (Conservative): Is the Secretary of State aware that *The Times* reported on 10 January that a study conducted by one of Britain's leading social surveys showed that Scots do not want immigration to be devolved? Does he agree that that is a hammer blow to the Scottish National party's calls and that the biggest danger to Scotland is the SNP's drive towards another independence referendum, which puts people off wanting to come to Scotland?

Reply from David Mundell: It is certainly clear that the SNP does something to put people off coming to Scotland. I read last night that Boy George was going to be moving to Scotland, but the Scottish First Minister engaged with him this morning, and now we hear that he is not coming.

David Duguid (Conservative): Will my right hon. Friend confirm that the Home Office and the Government in general have been engaging and will continue to engage with Scottish businesses on the consultation around the immigration Bill?

Reply from David Mundell: Yes, we will continue to engage. The White Paper is part of an engagement process. My hon. Friend, who is a great champion of the fishing industry, has already raised issues in relation not just to fishing vessels, but fish processing.

Luke Graham (Conservative): I welcome this Government's move to guarantee EU citizens' rights here in the UK. That is unlike the SNP in 2014, when it threatened EU citizens that 160,000 of them would be stripped of their right to remain in Scotland. No unilateral guarantee was given to EU citizens by the SNP in 2014, but this Government are doing so now. Will my right hon. Friend clarify the direct communications that this Government are having with EU citizens in my constituency and elsewhere in Scotland to ensure that they know that they are a welcome and valued part of our community?

Reply from David Mundell: The Government are not just engaging with EU citizens, but setting out how they can proceed in the settled status process. ...

Stephen Kerr (Conservative): On the White Paper on future immigration, does my right hon. Friend agree that the salary floor of £30,000 makes it difficult for Scotland to retain international graduates when the average graduate salary is £21,000? There has to be the opposite of London weighting, does there not?

Reply from David Mundell: My hon. Friend makes a very good point, which I am sure will be taken into account as we move forward with the engagement process on the White Paper.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op): The Secretary of State's Government have been responsible for pursuing an agenda in which immigrants are demonised. We saw it over the past year with the hostile environment policy, we saw it over the Christmas break as the Home Secretary declared a national crisis when a handful of refugees made the perilous journey across the channel, and we now see it in black and white in the immigration White Paper. My question is simple: will the Secretary of State apologise for his Government's demonisation of immigrants and its harmful consequences for the Scottish economy?

Reply from David Mundell: Of course I do not accept the hon. Gentleman's characterisation of events. Scotland remains a place where migrants should be welcome, wherever they come from. The White Paper sets out the basis for a consultation on developing a new immigration policy post Brexit, and I encourage everyone to take part in that consultation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-16/debates/9CA34C3C-75CE-4330-99EC-E97597976D62/LeavingTheEUImmigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Andrea Jenkyns (Conservative) [204587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UN Global compact on migration, what plans the UK has to take in additional migrants in 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a legally non-binding document that respects the sovereignty of all countries to manage their own borders and to implement migration policies which respond to their national context. The UK is not legally bound to any new commitments.

Migration to the UK is influenced by various factors, including the UK's visa regimes with third countries, as well as the free movement of EEA nationals, which will end once we leave the European Union.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204587/>

The Global Compact referred to above can be read at

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Law

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [207234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cessation of international protection decisions by nationality of applicant have been made by the UK under Article 11 and Article 17 of Directive 2011/95/EU in 2018.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [207235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many withdrawal of international protection decisions were made by the UK by nationality of applicant under Article 14 and Article 19 of Directive 2011/95/EU in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, for as long as it is needed, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention. However, refugee status is not necessarily permanent and it may be appropriate to revoke such status where it is clear someone no longer needs protection; where evidence emerges that status was obtained by deception; or where someone commits a serious crime and is a danger to the community or represents a threat to national security.

We do not hold sufficiently reliable data to answer the question in the requested format.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207234/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207235/>

Migrant Workers

John Hayes (Conservative) [204392] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the effect of low-skilled migration on the economy in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: No such estimate has been made but the independent Migration Advisory Committee report '*EEA migration in the UK: Final report*' concluded "the benefits for existing residents of high-skilled migration seem clear. The evidence is less clear on whether low-skilled migration (perhaps those

in the bottom 25 per cent of the earnings distribution) has had costs or been broadly neutral”.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204392/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

Immigrants: Health Services

Frank Field (Independent) [206744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of waiving the Immigration Health Surcharge for non-EEA nursing staff.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government fully recognises the contribution that international healthcare professionals, including nurses, make to the UK and to our health service, but we are not convinced it would be appropriate to waive the immigration health surcharge for this group.

Other providers of public services, such as teachers, are required to pay the charge and it is only right that those who come to the UK for more than six months who will not have built up the same connection contribute to the running of the NHS. It is important to remember that the charge offers access to health care services that are more comprehensive and often at lower cost than many other countries. The income generated by surcharge payments goes directly to NHS services, helping to protect and sustain our world-class healthcare system for everyone who uses it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-09/206744/>

Visas: Married People

Jessica Morden (Labour) [207203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of premium service spousal visa applications for settlement in the UK were processed by UK Visas and Immigration within target times between (a) 1 January 2018 and 31 July 2018 and (b) 1 August 2018 and 1 January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on out of country applications for settlement visas and processing performance against service standards is published in the Migration Transparency data, table Visa01, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-november-2018>

The latest data show the vast majority 97.0% of straightforward cases were dealt with within customer service standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207203/>

Windrush Generation: Costs

Hugh Gaffney (Labour) [206019] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Government's Windrush initiatives.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: At the HASC evidence session on Tuesday 15 May, the Home Secretary committed to providing the HASC with regular updates on the work of the department in relation to Windrush. The most recent update was published on 17 December 2018 and Annex A provides a Financial Overview of the Windrush Initiative up to and including Period 7 of the Financial Year 2018/19.

Data would only be accurate at the time it was generated, with any answer potentially being inaccurate at the time of release. Providing a running commentary

on the estimate of the cost to the public purse would not be cost and resource effective.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206019/>

The evidence session referred to above can be read at

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/windrush-children/oral/82932.html>

The update referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/Windrush%20update%20October.pdf>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Karin Smyth (Labour) [207288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to publish details of the Windrush compensation scheme following the Government's consultation on that scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has committed to putting into place the Windrush compensation scheme and is grateful to those who responded to the public consultation that closed on 16 November.

We are considering the outcome of the consultation exercise and will respond as soon as possible with further details, including who is eligible to apply for compensation and how they can access the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207288/>

Immigration

Afzal Khan (Labour) [208426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's white paper on The UK's future skills-based immigration system, published in December 2018, whether he plans to introduce a second immigration Bill to implement the proposals contained in that White Paper.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published a White Paper on 19 December 2018 outlining the UK's future skills-based immigration system. The Government also introduced the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill on 20 December 2018 which will end free movement and provide the legal basis for the future immigration system.

We will implement most of the future immigration arrangements in UK Immigration Rules as is the case now. If primary legislation is required to implement any details of the future system, we will bring forward that legislation when Parliamentary time allows.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208426/>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neil Coyle (Labour) [206384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the settled status scheme will apply in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will continue to run the EU Settlement Scheme in the event of a 'no deal' scenario, for EU citizens resident in the UK by 29 March 2019.

As confirmed by the policy paper "Citizens' Rights – EU citizens in the UK and UK

nationals in the EU” published by the Department for Exiting the European Union on 6 December 2018, the basis for qualifying for status under the scheme will remain the same as proposed in a ‘deal’ scenario and will be focused on residence in the UK. This means that any EU citizen living in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be eligible to apply to the scheme, securing their status in UK law

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206384/>

The Policy Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762222/Policy_paper_on_citizens_rights_in_the_event_of_a_no_deal_Brexit.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [206036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 September to Question 172565 on Immigration: EU Nationals, when he plans to publish an assessment of the effectiveness of the pilot scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A report setting out the findings of the first private beta test phase of the EU Settlement Scheme was published on 31 October 2018. The report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-1>

A report of our findings from the second private beta test phase will be published shortly and made available on Gov.uk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206036/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172565/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [208416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for permanent residence documents by EU Citizens exercising treaty rights as self-sufficient people or students have been refused on the grounds of the applicant not having comprehensive sickness insurance.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [208417] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what grounds the requirement for an EU Citizen to hold comprehensive sickness insurance while exercising their treaty rights as a self-sufficient person or student may be waived in respect of applications for permanent residence documents.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Free Movement Directive, as implemented in the UK by the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2016, requires students and self-sufficient persons to hold comprehensive sickness insurance (CSI).

The Government may waive this requirement when considering applications for permanent residence documents from EEA national students who have been issued with a registration certificate confirming their residence as a student in the UK before 20 June 2011. In such cases, it is accepted that time spent in the UK without holding CSI is deemed lawful residence for the purposes of assessing whether the five-year qualifying period for permanent residence has been met.

Guidance on comprehensive sickness insurance requirements and transitional provisions for students can be found in the guidance on ‘qualified persons’ (from page 30) on Gov.uk via the link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-economic-area-nationals-qualified-persons>.

The information available on grants and refusals of documents certifying permanent residence is published at a total level in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, EEA table ee_02_q, latest edition at:

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

Information relating to the specific reason for refusal of those applications for permanent residence is not published.

For the avoidance of doubt, comprehensive sickness insurance is not a requirement for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme, which has been established to grant UK immigration status to EU citizens as we leave the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208416/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208417/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [208223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long it is taking on average to process applications made by EU nationals to the pilot EU settled status scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applications under the pilot phases of EU Settlement Scheme have been processed very quickly. Some applicants have needed to provide additional information and we have worked with them to ensure they know what information they need to provide. For these cases decisions could take longer as we will rely on the applicant providing that information in order to progress their application. Further details will be provided in the second private beta report which will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208223/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [206037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 September 2018 to Question 172611 on Immigration: EU Nationals, if he will hold discussions with banks on (a) the decision to allow applicants to the EU settlement scheme to submit as documentary evidence of five years of continuous residence an annual bank statement or an account summary covering a 12-month period and (b) that information being provided free of charge.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is expected that the majority of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme will be able to prove their UK residence using the automated cross-Government checks with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions. Those wishing to provide bank statements as evidence of UK residence may be able to do so free of charge by using their bank's self-service online facilities and submitting them digitally with their application.

There are no plans to discuss this specific issue with banks but the banking industry is represented by UK Finance at one of the Home Office's monthly stakeholder groups at which all elements of the EU Settlement Scheme's design are discussed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206037/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-10/172611/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [205799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) public and (b) private sector organisations will be able to access the personal information of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is the data controller for all data processed within the EU Settlement Scheme, this includes where organisations are contracted to act on behalf of the Home Office as the Home Office. No other organisations have access to the personal information of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office may however share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is an appropriate legal basis for doing so. Further detail on this is set out in the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System privacy information notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-information-use-in-borders-immigration-and-citizenship>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/205799/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [208354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 10 December 2018 to Question 198924 on Immigration: EU Nationals, which private sector organisations could be involved in the use of the data.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is the data controller for all data processed within the EU Settlement Scheme, this includes where organisations are contracted to act on behalf of the Home Office as the Home Office.

The Home Office may share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is an appropriate legal basis for doing so. Further detail on this is set out in the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System privacy information notice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-information-use-in-borders-immigration-and-citizenship>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208354/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-04/198924/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [204506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has carried out an equality impact assessment on the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In accordance with the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Government has had due regard to the impacts of the EU Settlement Scheme on those who share a protected characteristic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204506/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [206236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens will be eligible to apply for the increased post-study work period that is included in the Immigration White Paper.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in the Immigration White Paper, the future system will be a single global immigration system, where students of all nationalities will apply under the new student route.

Under the new route all students studying at a Masters' level, or at Bachelors' level and an institution with degree awarding powers, will be eligible for the increased 6-month post study leave period. Doctoral students will be eligible for a 12-month post study leave period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206236/>

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

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

John Hayes (Conservative) [204391] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of EU workers arriving in the UK would not have qualified for a highly-skilled work permit in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Illustrative analysis set out in the '*The UK's future skills-based immigration system*' estimates applying a RQF3+ skills threshold and £30,000 salary threshold (though there will be discussions with businesses and employers on the appropriate threshold) could reduce annual inflows of EEA long-term workers by around 80 per cent.

This analysis does not consider how firms and workers could potentially change behaviour in response to changes, or impacts from proposals other than applying a RQF3+ skills threshold and £30,000 salary threshold.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204391/>

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

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Neil Coyle (Labour) [206385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice the Government is providing to employers on employing non-UK EU nationals in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The statutory code of practice and guidance published on gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide> is clear that employers already need to carry out right to work checks on EU citizens, as they do with all prospective employees to prevent illegal working.

Current arrangements, under which EU citizens can demonstrate their right to work in the UK by producing their national passport or identity card, will continue after the UK leaves the European Union until the future border and immigration system is introduced. The White Paper

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf on the future immigration system is clear that when we move to the future

system, we will not require employers to undertake retrospective right to work checks on existing EU employees. Employers will not be required to distinguish between those who arrived before and after March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206385/>

Undocumented Migrants

John Hayes (Conservative) [204390] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of illegal immigrants residing in the UK.

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204390/>

Offenders: Undocumented Migrants

John Hayes (Conservative) [204394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of illegal immigrants that have committed crimes in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Any estimate of the exact size of the illegal population is extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around it. Similarly this applies to any estimate of the size of the illegal population committing crimes not least because not all crimes committed come to the attention of the authorities or lead to arrests; convictions; or removal action.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204394/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Syria

Royston Smith (Conservative) [206420] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to meet the target of resettling 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament.

Royston Smith (Conservative) [206421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in each quarter since January 2014.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Work continues with local authorities and international partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) by 2020 and we are on track to do this. In July 2017 we took the decision to extend the scope of the scheme to include refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria but do not have Syrian nationality. The latest published statistics show that by the end of September 2018 13,961 people have been resettled under the VPRS since the scheme began in 2014. Progress on resettlement is reported in the quarterly immigration statistics. The statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206420/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206421/>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Jessica Morden (Labour) [207204] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he expects his Department to complete its review of family migration rules for Afghan interpreters that served alongside British armed forces and whose families could not travel to the UK at the same time under the redundancy scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has committed to ensure that those Afghan interpreters relocating here can do so with their families, and we are currently considering what more we can do to make it easier for family members still in Afghanistan to join relatives already in the UK. We anticipate being able to bring forward any relevant changes to the Immigration Rules by the Spring.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207204/>

Refugees: Religion

John Hayes (Conservative) [204397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of refugees resettled in the UK identify as (a) Christian, (b) Jewish, (c) Hindu, (d) Islamic, (e) Sikh and (f) Buddhist.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In resettlement, the UK works according to the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality which means that we do not take into consideration the ethno-religious origins of people requiring assistance as we resettle solely on the basis of needs, identified by UNHCR through their established submission categories.

We believe that one way to protect the privacy of those being resettled and ensure their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available. We therefore do not publish a religious and ethnic breakdown of those who have been resettled

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204397/>

Refugees: Males

John Hayes (Conservative) [204388] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of refugees who have entered the UK in each of the last five years were male.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Refugee status is conferred following a grant of asylum. An asylum seeker may only become a refugee once asylum has been granted. Not all asylum seekers are deemed to be refugees and not all refugees claim asylum.

The Home Office publishes data, in its quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release, on the number of asylum seekers granted refugee status, by sex (table as_05 Asylum, volume 2).

The latest data cover the calendar year 2017, 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/2018-12-20/204388/>

Refugees: Children

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [204505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 October 2018 to Question 179213 on Asylum: Children, how many of the of the unaccompanied children who were granted asylum in the UK in 2017 made applications for refugee family reunion outside of the immigration rules; and how many of those applications were granted by (a) the Home Office and (b) an immigration judge.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is currently no provision in the Immigration Rules for Unaccompanied children who were granted asylum in the UK to sponsor family members to make applications for family reunion outside of the immigration rules.

Allowing children to sponsor family members could create further incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK to sponsor relatives. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Government believes the best interests of children are reflected in remaining with their families, claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach that is the fastest route to safety and relying on resettlement schemes to travel safely.

Available information relates 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 at:

<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/2018-12-20/204505/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179213/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Keith Vaz (Labour) [206235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has plans to increase the number of patrols of the English Channel to deter crossings by asylum-seekers and migrants in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Every Government department has been working at pace to build a detailed understanding of how withdrawing from the EU will affect its existing policies and services and is planning for a wide range of outcomes; this includes all aspects of possible changes at the border.

Border Force constantly review their maritime capabilities and will continue to work with both domestic and international agencies to respond to this issue, should it arise.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206235/>

Asylum

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [208342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether it remains his Department's policy to consider an asylum-seeker's claim for asylum less favourably if that person did not claim asylum in the first safe country they reached; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The United Kingdom has a proud tradition of providing sanctuary to those in need of protection. Where we are responsible for deciding asylum claims we will consider all cases on their individual merits.

Our domestic legislation and Immigration Rules underline the importance of claiming asylum in the first safe country, which is reflected in section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of claimants etc.) Act 2004. This clearly states that a failure to take advantage of a reasonable opportunity to claim asylum in a safe country shall be taken into account in assessing the individual's credibility.

In light of the recent sharp increase in the number of migrants attempting perilous Channel crossings to the UK in small boats, I have asked my officials to look at what more we can do to deter asylum seekers from travelling to the UK – often dangerously – from other safe countries in the first place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208342/>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [207236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of the asylum procedure at first instance is in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information regarding the average duration of the asylum procedure is not recorded and held in a reportable format.

However, the information relating to the percentage of initial asylum decisions made within the published service standard can be found on table Asy_10 of the Asylum Transparency data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207236/>

Asylum: Middle East

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [207237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time was for a decision to be made on an application for asylum in the UK for (a) Syrian nationals, (b) Afghan nationals and (c) Iraqi nationals in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken. Information regarding Asylum data is published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda the latest release of which can be found at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207237/>

Asylum: Undocumented Migrants

Kate Green (Labour) [207208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to his oral statement of 7 January 2019 on Migrant Crossings, Official Report column 85, whether asylum seekers arriving on the Kent Coast since 1 October 2018 have had their applications for asylum processed using standard procedures.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Over 500 migrants, the majority of whom are Iranian nationals, attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels in 2018. The vast majority of those attempts were made in the last three months of the year.

All asylum claims made in the UK are processed, managed and decided in line with Home Office policy, guidance and relevant case law and legislation. This supports an efficient and effective asylum process for the UK and ensures that asylum claims are handled in a manner that is appropriate to the individual, including ensuring any reasonable adjustments and safe-guarding needs are considered.

All asylum claimants must be treated with dignity and fairness regardless of their age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or belief.

An asylum claim will be registered where an individual makes a particularised protection claim for the first time, in person and in their own right. That does not mean that the UK will always be responsible for making a substantive decision.

As part of that process, there is a need to assess whether what a person is saying amounts to a protection claim and if so, whether the claim is admissible to the decision-making process. Inadmissibility is a concept by which the Home Office can decline to consider an asylum claim because the individual already enjoys sufficient protection in another country, or another country is responsible for considering the claim.

We are unable to state how many asylum seekers arriving on the Kent coast since 1 October 2018 have had their claims registered and processed using standard procedures, as we do not comment on the status of cases once they have claimed asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-10/207208/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Kevan Jones (Labour) [206278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his oral contribution of the Home Secretary of 7 January 2019, Official Report, Column 94, how many of the 316 migrants arriving in the UK who had crossed the English Channel subsequently claimed asylum.

Kevan Jones (Labour) [206279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants crossing the English Channel in each of the last three months have subsequently claimed asylum in the UK.

Asylum: Undocumented Migrants

Kate Green (Labour) [206353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his oral contribution of 7 January 2019, Official Report, column 85, whether all those arriving on the Kent coast since 1 October 2018 who claimed asylum have had their claims registered.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Over 500 migrants, the majority of whom are Iranian nationals, attempted to travel to the UK in small vessels during 2018. The vast majority of those attempts were made in the last three months of the year.

We are unable to state how many applications from this route have had their claims registered, as we do not comment on the status of cases once they have claimed asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206278/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206279/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206353/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

Undocumented Migrants: Children

Kate Green (Labour) [206355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his oral contribution of 7 January 2019, Official Report, column 85, how many unaccompanied children arrived at the Kent coast in (a) the first nine months and (b) the final three months of 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not routinely publish this level of data on clandestine entry or attempts to enter the UK and we do not comment on the status of cases once they have claimed asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206355/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Angela Crawley (SNP) [206404] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is for his Department to establish that an applicant for asylum has been a victim of trafficking.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is committed to ensuring that victims of trafficking are identified effectively.

Potential victims are provided with a minimum of 45 days recovery and reflection following identification during which time they have access to support and accommodation depending on their individual requirements. In order to make a decision on their trafficking case, information is requested from a variety of sources. When sufficient information has been gathered it is carefully considered and a Conclusive Grounds decision made.

The support provided to a Potential Victim continues until the Conclusive Grounds decision on victim status is made. The decision of whether an individual has been trafficked is considered separately to an application for asylum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206404/>

Asylum: Employment

Keith Vaz (Labour) [200561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been granted permission to work in the UK while their cases are being considered in each of the last five years.

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 while their cases are being considered in each of the last five years 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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200561/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [208242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his is taking to ensure a smooth transition in the transfer of asylum accommodation contracts; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has designed the new contracts to replace the current COMPASS services to ensure a smooth transition from the old contractual obligations to the new contractual requirements.

The timetable allows eight months for mobilisation and transition activities, which is consistent with the timeline for transition to operationalise the current contracts.

The Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) mobilisation transition plans have also built on a number of lessons, including the creation of an appropriately resourced function with suitable experience, expertise and understanding of the new contracts.

We will be working with local authorities to ensure an effective transition

A Written Ministerial Statement was laid before the House on 8 January 2019 with further details of this contract transition;

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-01-08/HCWS1237/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208242/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [204473] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that survivors of trafficking and modern slavery are not held in immigration detention.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Victims of human trafficking or modern slavery are regarded as vulnerable in the terms of the Home Office's adults at risk in immigration detention policy. This means that such individuals will be detained for the purpose of removal from the UK, or their detention continued, only when the evidence of their vulnerability is outweighed by the immigration considerations likely date of removal, compliance with immigration law and public protection in their particular case.

Additionally, in cases in which it has been found that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual may be a victim of trafficking or modern slavery, the appropriateness of their being detained, or of their detention continuing, is governed by the Home Office's modern slavery policy. This means that such individuals will not be detained, unless there are public order considerations that justify their detention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204473/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [204474] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the increase of the number of women from China held in immigration detention from 28 at the end of Q3 2017 to 52 at the end of Q3 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Levels of nationalities within immigration removal centres are dependent on migration flows, migrant activities and enforcement

operations. Levels fluctuate throughout the year across all nationalities. The Home Office work collaboratively with High Commissions and Embassies to obtain travel documents for the return of those who have no lawful basis to remain in the United Kingdom. This can involve identity and nationality interview schemes and these can occur in immigration removal centres.

The number of Chinese nationals detained increases when detained interview schemes are scheduled.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204474/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [205334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people detained by UK Visas and Immigration who had an outstanding (a) appeal, (b) application and (c) judicial review in (i) 2017 and (ii) 2018.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [205335] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who were notified of the outcome of (a) an appeal, (b) an application and (c) a judicial review while being held in an immigration detention centre in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

Immigration detention is used as a last resort, sparingly and for enforced return where the person concerned has no right to remain in the United Kingdom. Each case is assessed by Home Office officials in line with published detention policy and there must be a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timescale.

It would be rare for detention to occur when there is any outstanding appeal, application or Judicial Review. Those who are detained could be notified of the outcome of an appeal, application, or Judicial Review; but this would be those applications, appeals or Judicial Reviews that are raised or lodged from within detention.

Transparency data in relation to immigration detention from November 2011 can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681703/detention-oct-dec-2017-tables.ods.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205334/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205335/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Harriet Harman (Labour) [206717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration detainees who are (a) foreign national offenders, (b) foreign national offenders subject to deportation under the UK Borders Act 2007 and (c) other detainees were held in immigration detention for (i) 28 days or fewer, (ii) over 28 days but less than four months, (iii) over four months but less than 12 months and (iv) over 12 months in each year since 2015 to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Providing the information requested would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes the number of Foreign National Offenders currently detained. The data can be found in the quarterly Immigration Enforcement

Transparency Data:

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

The Home Office also publishes data on immigration detention, including the length of detention of those leaving detention (table dt_06_q) and the length of detention of those in detention at the end of each quarter (table dt_11_q). The data can be found in the detention tables in the latest Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018, quarterly release.

[Detention Tables - Sept 2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-09/206717/>

Undocumented Migrants: Detainees

Kate Green (Labour) [206352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his oral contribution on 7 January 2019, Official Report, column 85, how many migrants arriving on the Kent coast in (a) the first nine months and (b) the final three months of 2018 have been detained in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: During 2018 there has been a rise in the number of migrants crossing the Channel in small boats to reach the UK to claim asylum.

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>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206352/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: Removal Centres

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the longest serving person currently detained in an immigration removal centre has been held in detention; and what is the longest time a person has been so detained since 2014.

Reply from the Minister of state, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, unpublished management information shows that the longest-serving person currently detained has been held for three years and that the longest period of detention since 2014 is six years and eight months. That individual was released in October 2017. In each case the detainees were foreign national offenders convicted of very serious offences, including serious violence and serious sexual offending. I am confident that our reforms will prevent such long periods of detention being necessary, while not lessening our determination to remove foreign national offenders. ...

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, does the Minister accept that only we and the Republic of Ireland have no maximum timeframe for detention? Does she also accept what the United Nations action group on arbitrary detention stated: "Lack of knowledge about the end date of detention is seen as one of the most stressful aspects of immigration

detention, in particular for stateless persons and migrants who cannot be removed for legal or practical reasons”?

Is this not only indefinite detention but indefinite hopelessness? Should not we in the United Kingdom agree with the remainder of Europe, apart from Ireland, that we will put an end to it so that everybody will know exactly what the prospects are for their release?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the law does not allow indefinite detention. It is our view that a fixed, arbitrary time limit on detention would actually serve only to encourage individuals to frustrate the removal procedures in order to reach a point at which they would have to be released.

Baroness Bryan of Partick (Labour): My Lords, I apologise to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts, for that rush of enthusiasm. I visited Dungavel detention centre in south Lanarkshire when it was a prison and as prisons go, it was not such a bad place. Since it became a detention centre, however, it has changed considerably. It is surrounded by barbed wire and looks much more like a prison for serious offenders than a place to house people who could be vulnerable and could be there without knowing how long they are to be detained. Why has it been necessary to make conditions worse for asylum seekers than they were for prisoners?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I refute the point that conditions for asylum seekers are worse than for prisoners. The detention estate has reduced by some 40% in recent years, so we are holding far fewer people in detention, and 95% of individuals who are asked to leave the country because they are not here legally do not actually find themselves in the detention estate.

The Earl of Listowel (Crossbench): My Lords, can the Minister say whether the welcome progress made in reducing the numbers of families in immigration removal centres during the coalition Government has been sustained? How many such families are still detained? Would she care to write to me on this point?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will write to the noble Earl with exact figures, but I know that the number of families has definitely reduced in the detention estate and they are separate from individuals in the detention estate.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, once again the Minister insists that there is no indefinite detention in law. The dictionary definition of “indefinite” is “without fixed or specified limit”. Can she tell us what the fixed or specified limit is in law on general detention?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The other definition of indefinite is “unlimited” and I cannot find any examples of someone who has found themselves in detention for an unlimited period. For the reasons I outlined to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts, we do not want to put an arbitrary time limit on detention.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, Stonewall and the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group brought out a report called *No Safe Refuge*, which shows that those claiming asylum based on their sexual identity or gender identity who are put in detention suffer from prejudice, physical and sometimes sexual abuse. What is the Minister doing to ensure that this does not happen? Will she follow best practice from across the world that uses non-detention approaches for such vulnerable people?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Of course, that was something that Stephen Shaw recommended, and an R35 assessment is made before someone goes into the detention estate. I read that report, although unfortunately it was not attributed; I spoke to LGBT organisations about it and we worked through some of the issues. Also, as the noble Lord will know, we have worked with LGBT organisations extensively, including Stonewall, to ensure that conditions and training within the detention estate are sensitive to LGBT people who find themselves in detention.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-14/debates/1AD45B41-862F-40F5-BEEE-4EE391665FD3/ImmigrationRemovalCentres>

The report from the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group referred to above can be read at https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/no_safe_refuge.pdf

The Stephen Shaw report and recommendations referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

Brexit: EU Citizens in the UK

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are giving to citizens of European Union countries who have been resident in the United Kingdom since before the United Kingdom joined the European Economic Community.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, European Union citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The Government are making it as easy as possible for all EU citizens to secure their status after Brexit, and for long-term residents a number of simple options are available for them to do so.

Lord Greaves: My Lords, the purpose of asking this topical Question is to raise an issue highlighted by elderly Italian people living in Bradford. The BBC's "Inside Out" programme in Yorkshire on Monday evening covered this admirably. I am talking about Italians, particularly ladies, who came to Bradford as mill girls 60 years ago and are now therefore mainly in their 80s. One of them said: "We are foreigners in Italy, we are foreigners over here".

They are old people; they are racked by dismay and anxiety. Many of them do not know what to do and are astonished that they have to apply for something which was granted to them—the right to live in this country—when they first came. On 15 January, the Bradford *Telegraph & Argus* had a headline: "Bradford Italians gripped by Brexit fear". Do the Government understand that this group of people is in exactly the same position as the Windrush people? They are old and do not need the worry in their lives, which may put some of them into what a long time ago people called a decline. What are the Government doing to withdraw those threats from them and simply to leave them alone?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord for advance notice of his concern about this. Like any EEA nationals who settled in the UK before 1973, the Italians in Bradford already have indefinite leave to remain and do not need to apply to the EU settlement scheme. They can if they want make a free application to the Windrush scheme for documentation to confirm that status. In any event, the Windrush scheme is open to a person of any nationality who arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 and believes that they have settled status in the UK.

Lord Clark of Windermere (Labour): My Lords, is the noble Baroness saying that the Italians in Bradford have nothing to worry about?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Yes, my Lords, I am.

Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister may know that some of these Italian women were recruited directly by Salts Mill to work in Saltaire. When I first moved there with my family, we had Italian-born as well as Polish-born neighbours. There is real concern among these elderly people, who in most cases have British citizens as their children and grandchildren. Many of them have been in care homes for several years and do not find filling in forms easy. I heard a TUC representative from Yorkshire describe the settled status scheme as an absolute shambles in Yorkshire. Is there anything that the Government can do to ease the anxieties of those people by making it absolutely clear that they are guaranteed settled status for the rest of their lives?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Government have made it abundantly clear that these people are welcome to stay. There are a number of routes open to them to confirm that status and the Government are doing

everything we can to make this process as easy as possible. Of course, any party of government has a lesson to learn from the history of the Windrush generation, as the noble Lord, Lord Greaves, says, and we do not want a repeat of that.

Lord Kennedy of Wouthwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, the noble Baroness's Answer is partly reassuring, but how will we ensure that people in their 80s are aware of this? People just do not know. What are the Government doing to make sure that people are aware?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, there has been quite a lot of highlighting of this, both in the press and by the Government. The Government will open the public phase of the registration scheme on the 21st of this month and we hope that more people will sign up to it; thousands have done so already.

Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall (Labour): My Lords, is the Minister confident that nothing done by any government department or agency of government has contributed to provoking this anxiety? If she is confident of that, why?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we have the lessons of history to learn and certainly the Windrush scandal—which happened, of course, over decades—helped in that endeavour. As time has gone on and identity assurance is much more important in the digital age, so these schemes will add to the confidence of both the public and the Government that we are assuring the right of people to be here and their identity.

The Bishop of Leeds: My Lords, is it possible that the language could be changed? I spoke to a German woman who has been here for 67 years and finds the language of “You may be allowed to stay” quite difficult, as opposed to “You belong”, when she has children and grandchildren, she has been a taxpayer and all that. This goes deeper than simply being allowed to stay.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate is right, it goes deeper than the right to stay; it is “You are welcome to stay”. This country is most welcoming, hence the influx of immigration into this country, because it is such a great place to live.

Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I was somewhat stunned yesterday evening to hear the first thing the Prime Minister said after the withdrawal agreement went down in the House of Commons: that EU citizens were most anxious to know what was going to happen and to have certainty. Surely the Government could have given certainty to EU nationals, whether they arrived before 1973 or afterwards, before now. What certainty are they able to give? It is vital to give it immediately.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I think it is clear that, deal or no deal, those people are welcome here.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-16/debates/7E69062C-4881-4DD6-B240-B18C9F0F0740/BrexitEUCitizensInTheUK>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

National Insurance: Foreign Nationals

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative) [HL12534] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difference between (1) the number of National Insurance numbers issued to non-UK nationals, and (2) total immigration to the UK in the last five years.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes migration statistics and in 2016, looked at the differences between long term international migration (LTIM) figures and the allocation of national insurance numbers (NINos) to EU nationals and

published papers about their findings[1]and the next steps[2].

The LTIM estimates produced by ONS are in line with the United Nations definition of a long-term migrant; intending to stay for at least 12 months. NINOs are issued to people who come to the UK to work or look for work, regardless of the length of stay. NINOs may therefore include short-term migrants (those entering the UK for less than 12 months) who will not be included in LTIM estimates. LTIM estimates will include people (such as students) who come to the UK for reasons other than work and don't register for a NINo, so are not included in NINo data.

Further publications about improving the evidence[3] and the migration statistics transformation programme[4] include further information about how ONS is developing the evidence base on migration. Understanding the differences between data sources is an important part of our analysis within that programme and ONS will report further in due course. ...

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/methodologies/differencesbetweeninternationalpassengerurveyandnationalinsurancenumbersstatisticsasshowninthemigrationstatisticsquarterlyreport>

[2] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/noteonthedifferencebetweennationalinsurancenumbersregistrationsandtheestimateoflongterminternationalmigration/2016>

[3] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalmigrationdataandanalysisimprovingtheevidence/february2017>

[4] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/migrationstatisticstransformationupdate/2018-05-24>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12534/>

Immigration: Statistics

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL12724] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to work with social media companies to gather migration data when compiling official immigration statistics.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing migration statistics for the United Kingdom. ONS has recently set out an ambitious programme of work to transform migration statistics[1], to better understand the impact of migration on local areas and reduce reliance on surveys. The programme is initially focusing on sources from within government bodies, using new data sharing powers approved by Parliament. The programme recognises the potential value of alternative data sources and the intention is to explore these as we progress. ...

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/migrationstatisticstransformationupdate/2018-05-24>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-09/HL12724/>

Visas: Iraq

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL12591] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any adverse impact of current immigration policies (1) on Government supported projects designed to meet the challenges of the aftermath of the war in Iraq, and (2) the availability of visas for Iraqi civil servants wishing to participate in such projects

at British universities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As set out in the Immigration Rules, the permitted activities for visitors cover a broad range of tourist and business activities. The Immigration Rules support this Government's agendas and efforts, and ensures the UK is open for business.

All UK visa applications are considered on their individual merits, on the basis of the evidence available and in line with UK Immigration Rules, regardless of the applicant's nationality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12591/>

Visas: Iraq

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL12668] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any adverse impact of current immigration policies on the provision of research in British universities into gender-based displacement and violence in Iraqi Kurdistan; and what has been the impact of any refusal of visas to Iraqi-based researchers on such research.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As set out in the Immigration Rules, the permitted activities for visitors cover a broad range of tourist and business activities, which includes visiting academics and researchers. The Immigration Rules support this Government's agendas and efforts, and ensures the UK is open for business.

All UK visa applications are considered on their individual merits, on the basis of the evidence available and in line with UK Immigration Rules, regardless of the applicant's nationality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-08/HL12668/>

Press Releases

EU Settlement Scheme: applicant information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

EU Settlement Scheme public test phase: applicant eligibility

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

Using the 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-eu-exit-id-document-check-app>

Home Office announces repayment scheme for victims of modern slavery

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-repayment-scheme-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>

New Publications

Letter from Anne Milton MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding the Immigration Skills Charge 2017-18

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0067/anne_Milton_to_Yvette_Cooper_MP_ISC_2017-18.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP and Nadhim Zahawi MP to Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England, regarding the progress made on the commitments in the Safeguarding Strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children, Nov 2017

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0058/Letter to Anne Longfield.pdf>

Migration Advisory Committee Annual Report 2017-18

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770635/MAC_Annual_Report_17-18.pdf

Post-Brexit Immigration Policy and Recruitment of Modern Foreign Language Teachers and Public Service Interpreters

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LBP-2019-0009/LBP-2019-0009.pdf>

The recast Return Directive and its fundamental rights implications: Opinion of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-opinion-recast-return-directive-01-2019_en.pdf

News

Sadiq Khan demands plan to charge EU nationals to stay in UK changed

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/14/sadiq-khan-demands-plan-to-charge-eu-nationals-to-stay-in-uk-changed>

Data laws could harm EU citizens' attempts to stay in UK, court told

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/17/eu-citizens-right-to-remain-brexit-personal-records-high-court>

EU citizens win right to bring court challenge to Home Office rules

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-citizens-win-right-to-bring-court-challenge-to-home-office-rules-rntm73lc0>

Catholic church urges EU citizens to apply for settlement status

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/14/catholic-church-urges-eu-citizens-to-apply-to-settlement-scheme-registration>

Home Office ordered to pay £90,000 to homeless Polish couple illegally detained for five months over rough sleeping

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-polish-couple-unlawful-detention-rough-sleeping-damages-operation-gopik-a8735966.html>

Revised UK child citizenship character test 'still poor'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/15/updated-uk-child-citizenship-good-character-test-still-poor-say-campaigners>

Scrap immigration target and abolish cap on work visas for skilled migrants, ministers told

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-drop-target-net-migration-economic-harm-institute-economic-affairs-a8726251.html>

UK 'fails to give safe haven to Christians'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/uk-fails-to-give-safe-haven-to-christians-ht3pwgfkq>

Birmingham University in row over 'racist' treatment of non-EU staff

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/18/birmingham-university-in-row-over-racist-treatment-of-non-eu-staff>

Labour and Tories back 28-day limit on immigrant detention

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-15/news/labour-and-tories-back-28-day-limit-on-immigrant-detention-qw3rrhh65>

Doctors' leaders: Relax visa rules for all physicians after Brexit to limit vacancies

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17352338.doctors-leaders-relax-visa-rules-for-all-physicians-after-brexit-to-limit-vacancies/>

This won't hurt: the Syrian medics helped back to work by UK startups

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/16/syrian-medics-helped-back-work-uk-startups-refugees>

Two trains, three trams, 5,000 steps: How a mother and baby have to travel five hours to sign on with the Home Office

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-mother-baby-fivehour-journey-home-officer-reporting-immigration-faloshade-olayiwole-a8722741.html>

'Frail' Edinburgh couple face removal to Iran

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-46923234>

Thousands urge Home Office to halt removal of elderly Iranian couple

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17371181.thousands-urge-home-office-to-halt-removal-of-elderly-iranian-couple/>

Thousands urge Home Office to halt removal of Edinburgh-based Iranian OAP couple

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/thousands-urge-home-office-to-halt-removal-of-edinburgh-based-iranian-oap-couple-1-4859297>

Iranian couple living in Edinburgh threatened with removal from UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/iranian-couple-living-in-edinburgh-threatened-with-removal-from-uk-1-4858716>

Home Office refuses to let great-grandparents remain in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/18/home-office-refuses-to-let-great-grandparents-remain-in-uk>

'We will never see them again': Fears for elderly Iranian couple as Home Office refuses to let them remain in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-home-office-visa-iranian-couple-family-britain-latest-a8736451.html>

Man dying from heart failure at 38 after being denied treatment under Home Office's 'hostile environment'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/man-dying-heart-failure-home-office-hostile-environment-immigration-pakistan-theresa-may-visa-a8734511.html>

Against their will, the UK government is deporting young Britons and putting their lives at risk

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/adnan-hashmi-home-office-deport-mogadishu-somalia-matthew-stadlen-lbc-a8730411.html>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Statue for Wales' first black headteacher Betty Campbell

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-46924839>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Travellers: Reading

The Lord Bishop of Ely [HL12698] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following their Race Disparity Audits, what steps they are taking to ensure that educational institutions improve the standard of reading among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers aged 6–7.

Travellers: GCSE

The Lord Bishop of Ely [HL12699] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following their Race Disparity Audits, what steps they are taking to ensure that educational institutions improve attainment at GCSE level for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department's education reforms, including those aimed at improving teaching, literacy and numeracy, and strengthening the curriculum and examination system, are designed to deliver opportunity and high standards for all pupils, regardless of their ethnic background. These reforms are reinforced by new school accountability measures, which are intended to encourage schools to focus more closely on the attainment of all their pupils. The introduction of a new national curriculum for maintained schools from 2014, with phonics at its heart and the establishment of 32 English Hubs in 2018 specifically support primary schools to improve standards of reading.

The department knows that the most significant factor affecting pupil attainment, which cuts across all ethnicities including a high proportion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, is economic disadvantage. To tackle this, the department has provided a total of £13.75 billion from April 2011 to March 2018 through the pupil premium to help schools improve the progress and attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. The department continues to provide this additional funding, which is £2.4 billion this year alone.

In January last year, the department established the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller stakeholder group to inform policy development to raise the attainment and participation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils at all stages of education.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-09/HL12698/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-09/HL12699/>

New Publication

Equality in Fife

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/EQUALITY-IN-FIFE-DECEMBER-2018.pdf>

News

Why isn't the ethnicity pay gap taken seriously in Britain?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/work/isnt-ethnicity-pay-gap-taken-seriously-britain/>

Black police paid less as ethnic pay gap widens, Met figures show

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/19/met-police-race-pay-gap-widens>

UK publishers need to change the story when it comes to race

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2019/jan/17/uk-publishers-need-to-change-the-story-when-it-comes-to-race>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15377 Gordon MacDonald (SNP): South West Edinburgh Hate Awareness Week – That the Parliament welcomes the outcomes of the Hate Crime Awareness Campaign run by South West Edinburgh Police in November 2018; recognises that it was a multi-agency campaign set up by Jackie Massie at Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council, Simon Porteous at Edinburgh Council, Miland Kolhtar at SCORE Scotland and PS Kieran Dougal at Oxfords Police Station; further recognises that the campaign was funded by Edinburgh Council; appreciates that, among other achievements, over 1,400 pupils from secondary schools in south west Edinburgh, including the Wester Hailes Education Centre and Balerno High School, received inputs on hate crime awareness within schools; further appreciates that stalls were attended at four supermarkets, campaign Tweets were released that gained over 19,000 impressions, two corridor workshops were undertaken with students at Heriot-Watt and Napier universities and a Hearts-Hibs match featured publicity material, and commends all partners and agencies involved in the successful campaign.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15377>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Kick It Out

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [206004] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture,

Media and Sport, how many meetings (a) he and (b) his Ministers have had with Kick It Out in the last five years.

Reply from Mims Davies: DCMS Ministers and officials meet a number of stakeholders in sport on a regular basis.

'Kick it Out' has been a powerful voice working within football to tackle all forms of discrimination for the last 25 years. They were among the key attendees to a homophobia in sport roundtable event DCMS hosted in 2018, and DCMS and the Home Office partnered with the organisation and the Premier League to launch at that event new guidance to help football club safety officers and stewards deal with homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse, as well as a short film to raise awareness of gay and transsexual inclusion in football. The Kick it Out app remains the most-used reporting mechanism relating to incidents of discrimination within football.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206004/>

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [206006] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to reduce racism in sport.

Reply from Mims Davies: There is absolutely no place for racism in sport or anywhere in society. Sport clubs and fans must continue to embrace diversity and tackle racism whenever they encounter it.

The cross-government sport strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' seeks to ensure that access to sport is equal for all. Government is supportive of anti-racism initiatives from grassroots to elite sport, including Show Racism the Red Card and Kick It Out. Grassroots sport also receives support in tackling racism from our national sport council, Sport England, who provide free support and learning through its "Club Matters" programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206006/>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Islamophobia

Baroness Finn (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential consequences of adopting an official definition of Islamophobia.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth): My Lords, we remain deeply concerned at hatred directed against British Muslims and others because of their faith or heritage. This is utterly unacceptable and does not reflect the values of our country. We know that some have suggested that establishing a definition of Islamophobia could strengthen efforts to confront bigotry and division. Any such approach would need to be considered carefully to ensure that this would have the positive effect intended.

Baroness Finn: The formal definition of anti-Semitism is carefully but narrowly drawn and has helped to focus minds and resources on this pernicious hatred. How will my noble friend ensure that a formal definition of Islamophobia, if introduced, has a similar impact but is narrowly and carefully drawn so as to avoid creating a wider threat to free speech?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, it would be useful for my noble friend to look at the debate we had before Christmas, on 20 December, on this issue. I will certainly provide her with the link. It illustrated some of the difficulties that exist. It took some time to establish the definition for anti-Semitism. As I said, we would need to proceed with great care. In the interim, there is clearly an issue of hatred and bigotry directed against Muslims that we must confront. ...

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, there is no common statistical basis whatsoever suggesting that members of any one faith suffer more discrimination than others. Emotive words like Islamophobia are simply unhelpful pleas for special consideration. Does the Minister agree that the Government have a basic responsibility to ignore all special pleading and ensure that all faiths and beliefs are equally protected?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I would first say to the noble Lord—who contributed to the debate on this issue on 20 December—that of course all faiths, heritages and races should be protected, and indeed are protected. I would also gently say to him that the statistics show numerically that there are far more attacks and bigotry in relation to the Muslim community than any other.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister has acknowledged that hate crimes against Muslims have risen dramatically. The Government's own figures show a rise of 40%, almost equal to that of anti-Semitism. Will the Government accept that it is becoming increasingly normalised? We have commentators and columnists who think it is perfectly proper to argue that racism and hate speech against Muslims is acceptable and, in fact, should be normalised. Will the Government carefully consider the definition from and work done by the APPG on British Muslims, after consulting 800 community organisations, 80 academics and more than 60 parliamentarians, on offering that protection, and send out a strong signal that they intend to offer some protection? It is not special pleading; it is about reducing hate crime in the same way done for British Jews as well.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I share the ambition to ensure that the incidence of hate crime comes down. There is evidence of better reporting; that is one reason, although not the only reason, why the statistics show an increase. It is worth mentioning that. It is important to confront this wherever we look. The noble Baroness will be aware that we recently renewed the hate crime action plan, which is now going forward to 2020. I very much value the work done by the APPG and by others on this issue. Of course the Government will look at this in the round, as we will the other evidence and the very valuable debate we had just before Christmas.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, will the noble Lord go further and join me in congratulating the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims on producing this report and its definition of Islamophobia? It makes clear that Islamophobia is rooted in racism—racism that targets Muslimness or perceived Muslimness. Its report and definition have been endorsed by British Muslims for Secular Democracy, the Muslim Women's Network UK, the Muslim Council of Great Britain and, as the noble Baroness, Lady Hussein-Ece, said, by more than 800 other organisations. Will he commit to working inside government to get a definition adopted without delay?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I say to the noble Lord, who I do not think was present at the debate in question, that there are split views on this issue. It is not quite as straightforward as he suggests. Of course we want to work with the APPG and others, and we are certainly committed to any way of confronting and bringing down bigotry and hatred. But I want to make sure that we get this right, and that means not rushing it. I appreciate that the noble Lord will be part of that endeavour and look forward to his support in that.

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated): My Lords, I say to the Minister, with due respect, that there was not such division as he suggests. However, as he may be aware, those of us

who have spoken in the debate since the Islamophobia debate on 20 December have received some unsavoury intimidation. Does he agree that any definition that seeks to protect a community must be rooted in that community? Does he therefore agree that any attempts to undermine the community's agency is in itself a part of that problem? To the House, I say that those of us who have worked tremendously hard over years and decades will not tolerate any division between us while we fight Islamophobia, other prejudices and anti-Semitism.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, first, if the noble Baroness goes back to that debate, she will find that there were certainly Muslim contributors who had different views. I am not saying that they did not want to confront Muslim hatred and Islamophobia—they did—but there are certainly different approaches that we would have to look at. I share her view about making sure that, in a shared endeavour, we bring down anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia and confront them both.

The Archbishop of York: My Lords, on the overall question of definitions, sometimes it is much easier to do things when we handle them as concepts. In the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, we struggled with the question of racism, particularly when it is found in institutions, so we ended up saying: “The concept that we apply to this case of institutional racism is this”. That is much easier than a definition because a definition can restrict what you want to say. Is it not better to learn from what the Stephen Lawrence inquiry did? We in that inquiry also struggled with the question of homophobic incidents in many other places. In the end, we adopted the word “concept” as opposed to a definition, because a definition is always contingent on who speaks and who does what. May I advise that it might be worth while visiting the way in which the Stephen Lawrence inquiry handled the question of institutional racism?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the most reverend Primate is right and I take his advice on this very seriously. There is obviously major work to be done here and I will certainly revisit issues relating to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and how we learned from what came forward there. It is vital that we get this right; I am sure we all share in that ambition. It is about making sure that we do it, not about rushing to judgment and coming to a set conclusion without looking at the evidence. I am keen to see the evidence and to act on it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-14/debates/5AAEA536-F95C-434E-9331-529C93639C53/Islamophobia>

The debate referred to above can be read at

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

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

New Publications

Freedom of Information release: First Ministers response to Anas Sarwar letter on Race Equality

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-18-03740/>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/y7y84qq3>

Are employers in Britain discriminating against ethnic minorities?

http://csi.nuff.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Are-employers-in-Britain-discriminating-against-ethnic-minorities_final.pdf

News

Diane Abbott accuses BBC Question Time of legitimising racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/18/diane-abbott-accuses-bbc-question-time-of-legitimising-racism>

Blackshirt bedroom fascist plots to infiltrate Scottish local councils

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/blackshirt-bedroom-fascist-plots-infiltrate-13877025>

Glasgow city council's drive to fill low-paid jobs triggers race row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/glasgow-city-councils-drive-to-fill-low-paid-jobs-triggers-race-row-xbswwj95v>

Scotland needs to talk about racism towards NHS staff

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/scotland-needs-to-talk-about-racism-towards-nhs-staff-dr-punam-krishan-1-4857678>

An empire at home: the pitfalls of being brown in the NHS

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/nhs-doctor-being-brown-british-empire-uk-a8717786.html

GP thanks receptionist for calling out patient's racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gp-thanks-receptionist-for-calling-out-patients-racism-d60v22qs5>

Why your name matters in the search for a job

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46927417>

Minority ethnic Britons face 'shocking' job discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/17/minority-ethnic-britons-face-shocking-job-discrimination>

Nottinghamshire Police chief's husband in racism probe

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-46909915>

YouTube bans Britain First ad that appeared when users searched for Brexit or British political news

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/youtube-britain-first-ad-brexite-british-political-news-search-a8731691.html>

Liverpool University Chinese cheating email 'racist'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-46891915>

Chelsea launches #WeRemember campaign to raise Holocaust awareness

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/16/chelsea-launches-holocaust-awareness-weremember>

Chelsea face potential stadium closure as Uefa open disciplinary proceedings over allegations of racist chanting

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/european/uefa-chelsea-racist-europa-league-vidi-a8728266.html>

Three Holocaust survivors open up about the rising tide of anti-semitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/magazine/the-sunday-times-magazine/three-holocaust-survivors-open-up-about-the-rising-tide-of-anti-semitism-2kg0lc8fn>

Holocaust survivors tell of their fears over rising antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-18/news/holocaust-survivors-tell-of-their-fears-over-rising-antisemitism-j808f763x>

Restorative Justice: Giving a voice to those affected by antisemitism

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2019/01/17/restorative-justice-giving-a-voice-to-those-affected-by-antisemitism>

James Watson: Scientist loses titles after claims over race

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-46856779>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Response to the Outcome of the Meaningful Vote in Westminster

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11888&i=107478#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Ministerial Code: Referral to Independent Advisers

<https://www.gov.scot/news/ministerial-code-referral-to-independent-advisers/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debates

European Union (Withdrawal) Act

The Government lost the vote by 432 votes to 202

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-15/debates/2504FA7B-45BE-423D-8971-E451EF0594A9/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Act](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-15/debates/2504FA7B-45BE-423D-8971-E451EF0594A9/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Act)

No Confidence in Her Majesty's Government

The Government won the vote by 325 votes to 306

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-16/debates/D130C27B-C328-48F8-B596-03F05BF2EF8A/NoConfidenceInHerMajesty%E2%80%99SGovernment>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

Priti Patel (Conservative) [206340] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the total cost to the Official Development Assistance budget of supporting UK nationals who are victims of forced marriages.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: No Official Development Assistance budget is used to support UK nationals who are victims of forced marriages.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206340/>

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

Wes Streeting (Labour) [206847] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average cost of repatriating a victim of forced marriage to the UK in each year since 2010.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: We do not maintain statistics on the cost of repatriation. We do have statistics on the number and value of emergency loans given to victims of forced marriage for repatriation purposes since 2012. The cost of repatriating victims of forced marriage to the UK varies, and is dependent on individual circumstances including the victim's age and the country that they are in. There are also different routes for funding repatriation: in the majority of cases the family cover the cost of the repatriation. Where possible, the Government to seek to ensure the costs fall on the perpetrators by means of Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs). After being served with an FMPO the victim's family, who are usually responsible for the victim travelling overseas against their wishes or under false pretences, would be instructed to arrange and pay for them to return to the UK within a specific period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-09/206847/>

Forced Marriage

Wes Streeting (Labour) [206848] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the value of the (a) lowest, (b) highest and (c) average emergency loan granted to victims of forced marriage in each year since 2010.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: We do not hold data for the value of emergency loans granted to victims of forced marriage prior to 2012. Based on best available data, we have made the following estimate of the value of emergency loans granted to victims of forced marriage for years since 2012:

2012:

- (a). Lowest: £340.00
- (b). Highest: £991.00
- (c). Average: £579.64

2013:

- (a). Lowest: £62.00
- (b). Highest: £826.00
- (c). Average: £493.18

2014

- (a). Lowest: £107.00
- (b). Highest: £1,376.10
- (c). Average: £608.85

2015

(a). Lowest: £388.25
(b). Highest: £701.00
(c). Average: £536.85
2016

(a). Lowest: £100.00
(b). Highest: £1,203.40
(c). Average: £579.43
2017

(a). Lowest: £647.00
(b). Highest: £922.96
(c). Average: £717.02

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-09/206848/>

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

Wes Streeting (Labour) [206856] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the number of victims of forced marriage who were required to pay the cost of repatriation to the UK without an emergency loan agreement in each year since 2010.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: There are different routes for funding repatriation, and we do not collect or record statistics on how individuals fund their return to the UK. In the majority of cases the family cover the cost of the repatriation. Where possible, the Government will seek to ensure the costs fall on the perpetrators by means of Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-09/206856/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following four questions all received the same answer

Forced Marriage

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12562] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will cease repatriation charges for women and girls escaping forced marriage abroad.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12563] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish information on their policy of charging women and girls the costs of being repatriated to the UK to escape forced marriage abroad.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12564] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much debt each of the victims of forced marriage repatriated in 2016–17 has outstanding to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12565] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will return the passports to women and girls who have outstanding debts to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after being repatriated to escape forced marriage.

The UK is a world-leader in the fight to tackle the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. After careful consideration, the Foreign Secretary has decided that victims of forced marriage who are helped to return to the UK by the Forced Marriage Unit will no longer be asked to take out a loan for their repatriation costs. From now on, none of those who are assisted by the Forced Marriage Unit - and would previously have been offered a loan - will have to cover the costs of their repatriation. Where possible, the Government will continue to seek to ensure the costs fall on the perpetrators by means of Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs). The Government has also

agreed to ensure that those victims who have outstanding loans will have no further cost fall to them. We are in the process of contacting those victims to notify them of this change. Their passports will also be unblocked.

The FMU provides support and advice for victims, those at risk, and professionals, through its public helpline. The support offered ranges from providing information and guidance to organising rescue and repatriation to the UK for victims overseas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12562/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12563/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12564/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12565/>

News

Brexit: Theresa May's deal is voted down in historic Commons defeat

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46885828>

TOP

Other News

Parents 'tried to use witchcraft to cover up FGM of three-year-old daughter'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fgm-trial-witchcraft-police-parents-female-genital-mutilation-old-bailey-london-a8731036.html>

Woman accused of FGM on daughter, 3, 'used witchcraft'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-16/news/woman-accused-of-fgm-on-daughter-3-used-witchcraft-00f3vbrz9>

TOP

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

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>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8473/CBP-8473.pdf>

Memorandum from the Home Office

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/11-01-DLM-Imm.pdf>

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>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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/>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 4 April 2019)

https://www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf
https://www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf

**** Defamation in Scots law** (closing date 5 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7dv8tu>

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>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

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>

12 February 2019 in Stirling (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y72rahnbn>

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.

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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 issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users can prepare to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Hate Crime Reporting Roadshow

24 January 2019 in Camelon (10.00-12.00)

Disability Equality Scotland and Central Scotland Regional Equality Council Hate Crime Roadshow Event to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it as well as discussing some of the potential barriers to reporting hate crime. For information and to book see <https://hate-crime-reporting-roadshow.eventbrite.co.uk>

**** this week!**

this week!

Equalities and Hate Crime Public Awareness

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>

**** this week!**

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

Introduction to Policing Programme

10, 17, and 24 February 2019 (three-day course) in Glasgow, Tulliallan, and Jackton

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19ii_ps.pdf , contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

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

BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence

15 February 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid session to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic (BME) women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence/> or contact 01312266606

**** The Gathering**

20-21 February 2019 in Edinburgh

The Gathering is the largest free third sector event in the UK with over 100 exhibitors, and a packed programme featuring more than 70 workshops, seminars and training sessions. For information see <https://scvo.org.uk/the-gathering-2019>

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

TOP

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/>



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/>

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