



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

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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.

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15513 Annabelle Ewing (SNP): Settled Status Scheme for EU Citizens in Scotland – That the Parliament notes the UK Government's decision to abandon its plans to charge EU citizens a fee when applying for their right to remain in Scotland through the EU Settlement Scheme; believes that it was wrong for the UK Government to oblige EU citizens who have built their lives in Scotland, and who contribute to the economy and communities, to pay for the status and rights they already have; acknowledges the persistence of the Scottish National Party, Scottish Labour, Scottish Green Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats in their respective campaigns to abolish the settled status fee; considers that it remains unfair to oblige EU citizens in Scotland to apply to retain the rights that they already hold, regardless of the fee; recognises what it considers the significant economic, social and cultural contributions made by EU citizens in communities across Scotland, including in the Cowdenbeath constituency, and notes the calls on the UK

Government to scrap the settlement scheme for EU citizens.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15513>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Leaving the EU

The Prime Minister: ... a number of Members have made powerful representations about the anxieties facing EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU who are waiting to have their status confirmed. We have already committed to ensuring that EU citizens in the UK will be able to stay and continue to access in-country benefits and services on broadly the same terms as now, in both a deal and a no-deal scenario. ... Having listened to concerns from Members, and organisations such as the 3million group, I can confirm today that, when we roll out the scheme in full on 30 March, the Government will waive the application fee so that there is no financial barrier for any EU nationals who wish to stay. Anyone who has applied, or will apply, during the pilot phase will have their fee reimbursed. More details about how this will work will be made available in due course. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0FBF8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into English Channel migrant crossings: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/english-channel-migrant-crossings/oral/95434.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration

4. **David Duguid (Conservative):** What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system. [908647]

6. **Jeremy Lefroy (Conservative):** What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system. [908650]

11. **Gillian Keegan (Conservative):** What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system. [908655]

17. **Julian Sturdy (Conservative):** What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system. [908662]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): On 19 December last year, the Government published a White Paper that set out our principles and plans for a future skills-based immigration system. The future system will focus on high-skills, welcoming talented and hard-working individuals who will support the UK's dynamic economy and enabling employers to compete on the world stage.

David Duguid: I thank my right hon. Friend for his response. When we leave the common fisheries policy, as he will be aware, we take back control of our waters and our fish. We can expect at that point an expansion of the seafood processing sector in my constituency of Banff and Buchan, an area of very low unemployment. Will he therefore assure me that our future immigration policy will, if required, facilitate the sourcing of skilled seafood processing workers from outside the UK?

Reply from Sajid Javid: My hon. Friend is right to highlight the opportunities that

Brexit will bring for certain industries. I can assure him that the immigration White Paper does contain proposals to bring medium-skilled workers into the scope of skilled workers and also to introduce a temporary workers' route at all skill levels. I hope that that offers him some reassurance.

Jeremy Lefroy: Will my right hon. Friend assure me that the skills-based immigration system will not fall foul of an arbitrary salary cap? This is important in many sectors. In research—I declare an interest as I am on the board of a university—very highly skilled researchers are often not paid anything like £30,000 at the beginning of their career, but we need them for our university and research sector.

Reply from Sajid Javid: My hon. Friend is right to raise that issue. He may know that we made our visa offer for academics even more generous last year. Those changes have been warmly welcomed by the research community. I can assure him that we will engage with employers in the higher education sector and others before we determine any future salary thresholds.

Gillian Keegan: Chichester is home to a fresh food industry worth £1 billion, and its businesses rely on European workers. One grower in my constituency reached 1.5 million picking hours last year, and with no mechanical alternative for picking soft fruit, any restriction in accessing labour will curtail growth. Will my right hon. Friend assure me that our post-Brexit immigration policy will ensure that such businesses will be able to get the workers that they need?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I understand the importance of the fresh food industry to my hon. Friend's constituency. We are piloting a scheme to bring in workers from outside the EU to work in this industry, and our immigration White Paper proposed a temporary work route, allowing workers to come to the UK to work in jobs for up to a year at any skill level.

Julian Sturdy: Will the Secretary of State assure me that he will listen to North Yorkshire farmers and those in the agricultural sector who wish to retain access to seasonal workers after Brexit? Will he confirm how the pilot will be assessed and that changes to numbers will be reviewed?

Reply from Sajid Javid: I can tell my hon. Friend that, first, the pilot will test the effectiveness of our immigration system, alleviating seasonal labour shortages during peak periods of production while ensuring that there is a minimal impact on local communities. We will fully assess the outcome of the pilot, but I am happy to give him the assurance that he seeks.

Helen Hayes (Labour): It is impossible to consider the future of the immigration system without considering the injustices that the immigration system has meted out in the past. In relation to the compensation scheme for Windrush citizens who have been unjustly and unlawfully treated by the Home Office, is the Home Secretary aware of reports that unscrupulous law firms are approaching Windrush victims and seeking to represent them in relation to the compensation scheme on the basis of a commission rate of more than 25% of the compensation awarded? Will he condemn that utterly predatory and exploitative practice and take steps to ensure that 100% of the compensation awarded by that scheme, when it is finalised, will go to the victims, who have already suffered enough?

Reply from Sajid Javid: It is very important that we have a fair compensation scheme in place. The work that Martin Forde, QC, has done independently is excellent; we will announce more on that soon. I join the hon. Lady in condemning those unscrupulous firms that are thinking only about lining their pockets, and not about the victims.

Janet Daby (Labour): Can the Home Secretary say what progress he has made regarding compensation for victims of the Windrush scandal?

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Lady will know that a consultation on the subject recently closed; it was extended at the request of Martin Forde, the independent chairman appointed to look into the matter. We are now working through the

responses across Government, and we will announce more details soon.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): Tens of thousands of families have been split by the Prime Minister's draconian anti-family immigration rules. How many more families will be destroyed by the Home Secretary's proposals to extend those rules to EU family members? Should we not be getting rid of these rules, rather than extending them?

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Gentleman may be aware that in the withdrawal agreement in the Prime Minister's deal, there is an extensive section on guaranteeing citizens' rights. I believe that what we have agreed with the EU is very generous. No one has any interest in splitting any families. We must do everything we can to welcome those EU citizens who have made their home in the United Kingdom.

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat): Can the Home Secretary tell us how the settled status scheme will work for EU nationals ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, but working in the offshore oil and gas industry, or the merchant marine? Can he confirm that the fact that many of those people work outside the 12-mile limit for more than six months in the year will not be a barrier to their inclusion in the settled status scheme?

Reply from Sajid Javid: One of the reasons why we piloted the scheme was to look at any issues that might come up before the full launch, which is expected in April. The pilot has just closed; we published the results today. It looks at precisely such issues as the one that the right hon. Gentleman has brought up. We will look into that carefully.

Afzal Khan (Labour): This morning, the Government launched the largest stage of the settled status roll-out. If just 5% of those who need settled status fail to apply for it, 175,000 people in the UK will have insecure immigration status, or no status at all. The British Medical Association found that 37% of EU doctors are not even aware of the settled status scheme. What are the Government doing to make sure that EU citizens know that they need to register for settled status to avoid a repeat of the Windrush scandal?

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Gentleman might be interested to know that in a recent test—we have just published the results—out of 30,000 applicants, 70% were granted settled status; 30% were granted pre-settled status. None was refused. Almost 80% said that they found the application process very fair and easy to complete, so the process is working well, although he is right to highlight the question of what it might look like once it is fully open. We are making sure, through a huge comms campaign, that we get through to everyone who needs to know about the scheme. We are, for example, working with employers; I visited one such employer, GSK, just last week.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/367934EE-4202-451D-88AA-22DCD8D2B25C/Immigration>

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: Scottish Economy

8. **Martyn Day (SNP):** What assessment he has made of the potential effect on the Scottish economy of the policies set out in the White Paper, "The UK's future skills-based immigration system". [908652]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Government's immigration White Paper sets out the principles of an immigration system that will work in the best interests of the whole of the UK. As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has made clear, the White Paper is the start of the conversation. I look forward to ongoing engagement with stakeholders in Scotland over the course of this year.

Martyn Day: The Scottish policy chair at the Federation of Small Businesses has said: “The UK Government’s obstinate approach to immigration is a clear threat to many of Scotland’s businesses and local communities. These proposals will make it nigh impossible for the vast majority of Scottish firms to access any non-UK labour and the skills they need to grow and sustain their operations.” Is he wrong?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Gentleman is right to point out the importance of our engaging with business groups and stakeholders across Scotland. I was delighted to meet the CBI in Scotland in a business roundtable back in the summer, and that engagement will continue. I would also like to point out that the independent Migration Advisory Committee was very much of the view that Scotland’s economic situation is not sufficiently different from the rest of the UK to justify a very different migration policy.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op): Does the Minister accept that the idea of a skills-based immigration system is undermined by having an arbitrary salary threshold, which should be scrapped in favour of an honest assessment of the real skills demand across different sectors in the economy?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I would gently point out that it was not an arbitrary salary threshold; it was the one put forward by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. It is, of course, important that we engage with business and employers across the whole of the United Kingdom, and we will use the next 12 months to do so.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): My hon. Friend the Member for Linlithgow and East Falkirk (Martyn Day) has referred to the concerns of the policy chair of the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland. The chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, Marc Crothall, has said: “There is no doubt that the government’s plans will exacerbate the existing recruitment crisis considerably, placing our tourism industry and what is one of the most important economic drivers for Scotland in severe jeopardy.”

Is he wrong as well?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. and learned Lady will be aware that the Migration Advisory Committee, which is independent of Government, made the point that it did not see the case for a wide range of sectoral schemes. In fact, it made the case that perhaps only in agriculture was one appropriate. However, it is important that we continue to engage with all businesses and sectors. I am sure she will be delighted to know that the tourism industry in Wales has already beaten a path to my door, and I look forward to Scotland doing likewise.

Joanne Cherry: Clearly the tourism industry in Scotland are very unhappy with the proposals, and I beg to suggest that they know more about their industry than the Migration Advisory Committee. The reality of the situation is that people in businesses across Scotland are dismayed by the UK Government’s approach to immigration. Scotland already has different policies and approaches on taxation, climate change, tuition fees and social care. If those major areas of policy can be devolved and implemented to suit Scotland’s needs, why can immigration not be devolved? I would like to know the Minister’s views, rather than the Migration Advisory Committee’s views.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I am sure the hon. and learned Lady recalls my appearance before her at a Select Committee, where I made it clear that my view was that immigration policy was a matter reserved to the United Kingdom Government.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/5C595A76-1FD6-453C-B68C-ADE0295692A8/ImmigrationScottishEconomy>

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

EU Settlement Scheme

7. **Alison Thewliss (SNP):** What recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the EU settlement scheme. [908651]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The hon. Lady raises the question of how the EU settlement scheme is working. Of course, we know that EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The first two phases of beta testing have successfully concluded, and the wider public implementation of the scheme has gone live today.

Alison Thewliss: I have received a worrying pattern of news about EU citizens in my constituency being denied universal credit because they are deemed not to have the right to reside. This is happening despite the Department for Work and Pensions having access to work history records and other evidence to the contrary. Is this an example of the hostile environment extending to EU citizens before Brexit has even happened, and will the EU settlement scheme have any impact on this?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU settlement scheme is a really crucial part of making sure that the 3.4 million EU citizens living here can absolutely evidence their right to stay here through a digital status in line with 21st-century requirements. The hon. Lady will have heard my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary talk in positive terms about how important this scheme is. We have now opened the final phase of testing before the whole scheme goes live at the end of March.

Maria Miller (Conservative): The Government are right to be working hard to secure a Brexit deal, but if no deal is reached, can my right hon. Friend reassure EU citizens living in our county of Hampshire and elsewhere in the UK that their rights will still be guaranteed? This is important and it needs to be clear, not just to citizens but to businesses as well.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Picking up on the final part of my right hon. Friend's question, last summer we launched the employer toolkit to enable employers best to communicate to their employees the settled status scheme. She is right to point out the concerns that many may have about the event of no deal. I would like to reassure her that across Government we are working incredibly hard to avoid a no-deal outcome. However, the Department for Exiting the European Union was very clear about the protections afforded to EU citizens in the event of no deal, and we believe that our offer to them is generous. Deal or no deal, the scheme will open publicly at the end of March, and it is crucial that as many citizens as possible apply.

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op): The Minister knows that this is an increasingly complex area. I have had many letters from constituents concerned that they will be impacted by the immigration health surcharge. Who is going to have to pay this, and is it going to be increased along the lines foreshadowed in the press?

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The hon. Gentleman will know that we did increase the immigration health surcharge. That was an important manifesto commitment that the Conservative party made to make sure that those who are using NHS services are also contributing to the NHS. The settled status scheme has deliberately been designed to be simple, not complicated. It is really important that EU citizens only have to prove their identity, prove their residence, and confirm that they do not have criminality. In the second phase of private beta testing, it has been very plain that the vast majority of people going through the scheme—in the region of 80% or so, I believe—have been able to confirm their residence of five years without any reference to additional information other than their records with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs or their DWP records.

David Davies: As somebody who is married to an EU citizen, I think that these proposals are entirely fair and proportionate, and are in marked contrast to the outrageous scare stories that were put about by some people, in and out of this House, who are fanatical about remaining in the European Union.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend. I am sure that his wife will be going through the process very soon indeed. In fact, some of the best advocates for the simplicity of the EU settled status scheme have been those who have already gone through it, and we have had very positive feedback on the first two phases of testing.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/112F0701-862E-407C-B230-B4D846F89C4C/EUSettlementScheme>

Immigration Detention Estate

5. **Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat):** What recent assessment he has made of the size of the (a) current and (b) future immigration detention estate; and if he will make a statement. [908648]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes): The Government are committed to using the detention estate sparingly, and only when necessary. We have taken a systematic approach to modernising and rationalising the detention estate, so that we ensure that we have the geographical footprint and resilience required to meet our future needs. By this summer, the detention estate will be almost 40% smaller than four years ago, and of significantly higher quality.

Layla Moran: I welcome very much the closure of Campsfield House; I have been campaigning for its closure for a very long time. However, it happened very quickly, so lots of workers are now worried about where they will find a job. The local community is desperate to know the plans for the site once Campsfield is totally run down.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I am glad that the hon. Lady identified her involvement with the Close Campsfield campaign. I am conscious that she was at many of the protests calling for the closure of Campsfield. We are developing options for the future use of the site following the end of the contract, which was, in any case, scheduled to end in May 2019. Although the employment of Mitie staff is a question for Mitie, the company has provided assurances that it is actively engaged with its staff on redeployment options within its business. All detainees have been transferred to other centres where they will be held in decent and dignified conditions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/C91CDAFF-64D5-49D3-929A-625280B578C2/ImmigrationDetentionEstate>

Prime Minister's Questions

Drew Hendry (SNP): My constituent Denis Omondi is a British citizen. He has uncontested custody of his young daughter Ann, who is in Kenya. Although he visits her as often as he can, she has been denied a visa because the Home Office claims that he has not spent enough time with her. The problem is that Denis is a serving soldier in the British Army. He is stationed at Fort George, and has served tours in Afghanistan, Iraq and Cyprus at the behest of the UK Government. Does the Prime Minister believe that this situation is fair? Will she look into how this loyal soldier and loving father can be reunited with his daughter? [908732]

Reply from the Prime Minister: Let me first thank Denis for his commitment to serving in our armed forces. All our armed forces do an incredibly important and brave job for us.

I am sure that the hon. Gentleman will not expect me to be able to look at the details of the case at the Dispatch Box on the Floor of the House, but I will ask the Home Secretary to look into it and respond to him.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-23/debates/ED7C92A8-896E-4BF1-A023-21F5AF64B1BD/Engagements#contribution-9BEC5E7-C30E-49D3-8FBA-5AC458A799C0>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Migrant Workers: Taxation

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [209308] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what contribution to the public purse has been made by non-EU citizens in employment via (a) National Insurance contributions, (b) income tax, and (c) indirect taxation in each of the last three years.

Reply from Mel Stride: The table below shows the total Income Tax and National Insurance contributions (class 1 and class 4) paid by non-EU citizens in the tax years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. Estimates for 2016-17 will be published as official statistics in August 2019. It is not possible to identify from indirect tax receipts how much was paid by non-EU nationals.

Tax Year	Total Income Tax (£millions)	Total National Insurance Contributions (£millions)
2013-14	10,312	6,771
2014-15	10,502	6,943
2015-16	11,316	7,350

The estimates provided are based on HMRC's Survey of Personal Incomes and HMRC's records of individuals' nationality at the point of registering for a National Insurance number. Nationality in this dataset does not update if the individual changes their nationality.

Equivalent statistics for EU and EEA nationals are published by HMRC:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/income-tax-nics-tax-credits-and-child-benefit-statistics-for-eea-nationals-2015-to-2016>

The estimates have been produced using the same methodology as for the published statistics on EEA nationals

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209308/>

Immigrants: Personal Records

David Lammy (Labour) [181535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on incidents of damage or loss to large quantities of immigration records in the last 20 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The department has no central record of any incident of damage or loss to large quantities of immigration records in the last twenty years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-19/181535/>

Immigrants: Personal Records

David Lammy (Labour) [181536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of records of immigration status that have been (a) lost and (b) damaged in the last 20 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Case Information Database (CID) has been the source immigration case working system since 1998. Individual records of immigration status have therefore been digitised for the last 20 years. CID undergoes nightly back-ups to tape and has replication between the primary and secondary data centres.

There has been no systematic loss of immigration status records. Where any individual cases are identified or raised as having incorrect or incomplete records, these are treated as an absolute priority.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-19/181536/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [209309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to abolish the NHS surcharge for non-EU citizens who pay National Insurance contributions.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no plans to abolish the NHS surcharge for non-EU citizens who pay National Insurance contributions. The surcharge is intended to represent a fair and proportionate financial contribution to the NHS by migrants, corresponding with their temporary immigration status

Temporary migrants will not have built up the long-term relationship and contribution to the UK that a permanent resident has built up, and will build up, over the course of their lifetime. It is, therefore, the migrant's immigration status that determines whether they pay the surcharge, not their tax contributions or their profession. The Government recognises, however, that temporary migrants contribute to the UK economy in a number of ways, including paying income tax and national insurance; these contributions are reflected in the surcharge levels, which are below the average per capita cost to the NHS of treating temporary migrants. The Immigration Health Charge does not apply to migrants granted indefinite leave to remain; those granted this status qualify for free NHS care if they are properly settled in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209309/>

Visas: Married People

Jessica Morden (Labour) [207202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many premium service spousal visa applications for settlement in the UK have been processed in each month from January 2018 to 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/2019-01-10/207202/>

Immigration: Appeals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [206208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 January to Written Question 203216 on Immigration; Appeals, what the criteria are for his Department to expedite the consideration of an appeal based solely on human rights grounds in immigration cases, within the time limits set by the Tribunal Procedure Committee.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where the Home Office decides not to contest an allowed appeal, follow-on actions are completed as quickly as practically possible. The timeframe will vary for individual cases, especially where a fresh decision is required, or the customer needs to provide further information.

Requests for priority implementation are considered on a case by case basis. For example, if an appellant has provided credible evidence of the life-threatening illness or death of a close family member overseas, UKVI will prioritise the implementation, unless there are serious countervailing factors which necessitate holding the case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206208/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203216/>

Immigration: Appeals

Caroline Lucas (Green) [206300] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average duration of the appeal procedure in 2018 against first-instance decisions was for (a) all nationalities, (b) Syrian appellants, (c) Afghan appellants and (d) Iraqi appellants.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The average clearance time, in weeks, from receipt to disposal of an appeal in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) between January and September 2018, the latest period for which data are available, was:

All nationalities	42 weeks
Syrian nationals ¹	38 weeks
Afghan nationals ¹	32 weeks
Iraqi nationals ¹	22 weeks

¹ These data are Management Information taken from the tribunal's case management system. They do not form part of the published statistics.

Listing and case management of appeals is a function of the independent judiciary and each appeal is dealt with based on its own individual facts .

There are a number of issues that can influence overall case length and these include adjournments and postponements, evidential factors (which may vary according to the country to which the application relates), the ease of gathering evidence, time taken to obtain expert reports where required and availability of up to date country guidance where relevant.

Tribunal statistics are published on a quarterly basis and are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics

HM Courts & Tribunals Service has worked extensively to reduce the outstanding caseload and improve timeliness in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber. This has seen the live caseload in the First-tier Tribunal more than halve from 64,800 to 31,500 between July 2016 and September 2018. The average duration has also improved from 52 weeks in the period July to September 2017 to 39 weeks in the period July to September 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206300/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Appeals

Jess Phillips (Labour) [208234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests for reconsideration there were of negative conclusive grounds decisions made by UK Visas and Immigration in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

Jess Phillips (Labour) [208235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests for reconsideration of negative conclusive grounds decisions made by UK Visas and Immigration led to positive grounds decisions in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. These reports are available via the following links:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

Requests for reconsideration of negative conclusive grounds decisions can be made in line with the published policy which is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-trafficking-guidance-for-competent-bodies>

The specific information you have requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is because a manual search through individual records would be required to identify requests for reconsideration that were rejected because they were not in line with policy or those that were refused due to insufficient grounds for reconsideration. In addition, it is not possible to distinguish solely from database records whether a reconsideration case type was the result of a reconsideration request as defined in the published policy, the result of litigation or the result of the reconsideration of a suspended case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208234/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208235/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Judicial Review

Jess Phillips (Labour) [208232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many judicial reviews there were of negative conclusive grounds decisions made by UK Visas and Immigration in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

Jess Phillips (Labour) [208233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many judicial reviews of negative conclusive grounds decisions made by UK Visas and Immigration led to positive conclusive grounds decisions being made for the same claimant in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017-18.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. These reports are available via the following links:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

The specific information you have requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is because a manual search through individual records would be required to identify judicial review challenges specifically related to negative conclusive grounds decisions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208232/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208233/>

Overseas Students: Immigration

Chris Williamson (Labour) [209359] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, pursuant to the Answer of 13 December 2018 to Question 199286 on Overseas Students: Immigration, what criteria are used to assess whether a student has a recognised connection with the UK.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: Generally, to meet the eligibility requirements for student support, a student should be resident in England and have 'settled' status. 'Settled' means being ordinarily resident in the UK without any immigration restriction on the length of stay in the UK. An exception to this rule is made for Refugees, Stateless Persons, Persons Granted Humanitarian Protection and those who can demonstrate Long Residence in the UK.

To qualify for student support, individuals should normally have been a resident of the UK and Islands (Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for the 3 years prior to the start of the course. Refugees are exempt from the three year residence requirement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209359/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-05/199286/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Catherine West (Labour) [208880] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the recommendations in the November 2018 report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students entitled A Sustainable future for international students in the UK, what plans his Department has to set an international student growth strategy focused on recruitment and student experience.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The government fully recognises the important economic and cultural contribution that EU and international students make to the UK's higher education sector. The government welcomes international students and there continues to be no limit on the number who can come here to study, and there are no plans to limit any institution's ability to recruit them.

The UK remains a highly attractive destination for non-EU students with their numbers remaining at record highs, with over 170,000 non-EU entrants to UK higher education institutions for the seventh year running. The UK is a world-leading destination for study, with four universities in the world's top 10 and 16 in the top 100 – second only to the USA. The government actively promotes study in the UK through the GREAT Campaign and to over 100 countries through the British Council.

In the Immigration White Paper, published on 19 December 2018, the government proposed to increase the post-study leave period for international students following completion of studies to 12 months for those completing a PhD, and to six months for all full-time postgraduate students and undergraduate students at institutions with degree awarding powers. Going beyond the recommendations set out by the Migration Advisory Committee, these proposals will benefit tens of thousands of international students.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208880/>

The APPG report referred to above can be read at

<http://www.exeduk.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/APPG-Report-FINAL-WEB-1.pdf>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jo Stevens (Labour) [208944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the current system of credibility interviews within the student immigration system is (a) cost-effective relative to current risk and (b) does not hinder universities' ability to recruit a diverse range of students.

Ross Thomson (Conservative) [209352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will commission an independent review of the (a) adequacy, (b) cost effectiveness and (c) effect on the diversity of students of credibility interviews within the student immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An internal review of point of application credibility interviews for international students was conducted in 2018 to ensure that interviews are adding value to the case consideration process and not

unnecessarily inconveniencing customers. Up to date risk information was factored in to this review.

Regular engagement with universities and other educational institutions ensures that feedback is collected in relation to the application process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208944/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209352/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Overseas Students

Catherine West (Labour) [208878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to introduce a post-study work visa which allows up to two years of work experience for international students in the UK.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [208943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to review the option of introducing a post-study work visa allowing up to two years of work experience for international students in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The independent Migration Advisory Committee's report on international students, published in September 2018, recommended against the introduction of a separate post-study work visa. The report also made several positive recommendations with regard to the current post-study work offer. As set out in the Immigration White Paper, published last month, under the new student route all students studying at a Masters' level, or at Bachelors' level at an institution with degree awarding powers, will be eligible for a six-month post study leave period. Doctoral students will be eligible for a 12-month post study leave period. This will benefit tens of thousands of international students by providing them with more time to gain valuable experience or find employment in the UK in accordance with the skilled work migration routes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208878/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208943/>

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

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Catherine West (Labour) [208879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there will be an independent review of credibility interviews within the student immigration system to ensure the system is (a) fit for purpose, (b) cost effective relative to current risk and (c) does not hinder universities' ability to recruit a diverse range of students.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An internal review of point of application credibility interviews for international students was conducted in 2018 to ensure that interviews are adding value to the case consideration process and not unnecessarily inconveniencing customers. Up to date risk information was factored in to this review. Regular engagement with universities and other educational institutions ensures that feedback is collected in relation to the application process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208879/>

Migrant Workers: Health Professions

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat) [908665] What plans his Department has to maximise opportunities for qualified EU health workers to work in the NHS after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I appreciate the valuable contribution that non-UK workers make to our NHS. The Immigration White Paper emphasised that we will encourage the highly skilled and those that make a valuable contribution to our country to come and work in the UK.

But we need a balanced approach, because it is not a sustainable strategy to rely on recruiting overseas staff, and the long-term aim is that we train our own health professionals in this country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/908665/>

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

NHS: Migrant Workers

Martyn Day (SNP) [208303] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether it is his policy to encourage NHS employers to reimburse the £65 application fee for staff who need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Stephen Hammond: Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, as of 30 March 2019, EU nationals who apply for settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will no longer have to pay to make an application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208303/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0FBF8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [199921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the report, EU Settlement Scheme Private Beta 1, what assessment he has made of the reason for the nine people who had valid PR/ILR documentation not being granted settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where an applicant declares they hold valid Permanent Residence documentation / Indefinite Leave to Remain, this is checked against Home Office records. If the declared status cannot be confirmed, we work with the applicant to ensure they obtain the leave under the scheme for which they qualify. The nine cases referred to from the private beta 1 test have all now been granted leave under the scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-06/199921/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752872/181031_PB1_Report_Final.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [210731] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens have already paid £65 to apply for Settled Status and will be refunded.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have received over 30,000 applications over the two private beta test phases. Anyone who has applied already, or who applies and pays a fee during the test phases, will have their fee refunded.

The Home Office will set out full details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210731/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [209787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the consequences will be for EU citizens who do not register for EU settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme will be 30 June 2021 (under the draft Withdrawal Agreement) or 31 December 2020 (in a 'no deal' scenario). In either scenario, where someone misses the deadline for their application for a good reason they will be given a reasonable further period in which to apply.

If an application is not made by the deadline and a UK immigration status not obtained, the individual will be subject to the requirements of the future immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-17/209787/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [209788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has in place to assist people with iPhones in (a) accessing and (b) using the settled status registration app.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme can be completed on any smartphone, tablet or computer. This includes Apple devices.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card is currently available only on Android devices. Applicants can, if they wish, use a family member or friend's Android device to access the app, and complete the rest of the process on their own device.

They can also attend a local centre, expected to number at least 50 by the full opening of the scheme by 30 March 2019, at which they can access an Android device loaded with the app. When the scheme is fully open, applicants will also have the option of posting their identity document to the Home Office, to be checked and returned to them quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-17/209788/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [210674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens that do not have five years continual residency who are (a) married to a UK citizen and (b) have other long periods of residency will be entitled to settled status after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All EU citizens who have completed five years' continuous residence in the UK at any point will be eligible to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. This can be satisfied by any such period of time during an applicant's life in the UK rather than the most recent five years, provided it began before 31 December 2020. However, the applicant must not have been absent from the UK for more than five consecutive years since that period ended.

All other resident EU citizens, including those who are married to UK nationals, will

be eligible to apply for pre-settled status to enable them to remain in the UK to complete the five years' continuous residence required to be eligible for settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210674/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [203379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he will take to ensure that safeguards are in place under EU Settlement Scheme to protect victims of domestic abuse.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration Rules on eligibility for status under the EU Settlement Scheme reflect the provision made by the Free Movement Directive for victims of domestic abuse to retain the right of residence in the UK in particular circumstances. This is in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the European Union. We are also putting in place a range of measures to ensure that the scheme is accessible to potentially vulnerable individuals. We are working closely with a user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of such individuals, including victims of domestic abuse, to ensure that the right support arrangements are put in place.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203379/>

Home Office: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203246] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The setting of the fee for the EU Settlement Scheme is proportionate and fair and people have until June 2021 to apply. The department has no plans to cover the cost of the fee for its employers or contractors. The Government has continually made clear that we wish EU citizens already here to continue to live and work broadly as they do now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203246/>

English Channel: Undocumented Migrants

Keith Vaz (Labour) [207560] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with French authorities on travel by migrants and asylum-seekers across the English Channel.

Reply from Alan Duncan: FCO officials, in collaboration with other government departments – including Home Office (Border Force) and the National Crime Agency – are working closely with their French counterparts to tackle irregular migration. UK and French ministers have spoken about the issue of Channel crossings on a number of occasions, and senior level engagement is ongoing to develop a joint approach to the issue. The Home Secretary is due to meet his French counterpart in the coming weeks. The UK and France are committed to addressing illegal migration as set out in the Sandhurst Treaty and we are working jointly to stop the crossings by small boats and avoid loss of life.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-11/207560/>

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

Asylum: Undocumented Migrants

Kate Green (Labour) [206354] 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 asylum seekers arriving on the Kent coast since 1 October 2018 had their applications deemed as inadmissible; and what the basis was for deeming those applications as inadmissible.

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. We are unable to state how many applications from this route have been considered inadmissible, as these cases are still being processed.

We are working to utilise all legislative powers available to ensure we protect our borders and deter illegal migration. To do so, we are working closely with safe third countries to explore the return of asylum claimants to them, where evidence supports this assertion.

Those who need international protection should claim in the first safe country they reach, as that is the fastest route to safety, rather than risk their lives trying to enter other countries unlawfully.

For those we are unable to deem inadmissible, Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Treatment of Claimants Act 2004 will be considered when assessing their case. This legislation states that failure to take advantage of a reasonable opportunity to claim asylum in a safe country shall be taken in to account in assessing the individual's credibility.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206354/>

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>

Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Treatment of Claimants Act 2004, referred to above, can be read at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/19/section/8>

Undocumented Migrants: EU Action

Royston Smith (Conservative) [206419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the UK has made on the effectiveness of the EU's Operation Sophia in deterring illegal migrants who seek entry into the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Operation SOPHIA is just one part of the EU's overall approach to tackling the migration crisis of 2015 onwards. It aims to break the smugglers' business model in North Africa, alongside other interventions in the EU's comprehensive approach to reducing migration flows, which also includes work in countries of origin and transit to reduce the need of migrants to leave their home country or move on from a safe third country in their region.

The Operation means that smuggling networks can no longer operate with impunity in Central Mediterranean international waters and it has put over 551 smuggling vessels beyond use and rescued over 44,000 migrants.

Operation Sophia is considered to have contributed to a reduction in the volume of migrants crossing the Central Mediterranean into Italy, and complements other EU

work to reduce secondary movements across Europe, including towards France and the Channel ports. However, it is not possible to make a direct correlation between Operation Sophia and arrivals on the English coast

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206419/>

Refugees: Finance

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [208296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the British Red Cross report entitled Still an ordeal: the move-on period for new refugees published in December 2018, if he will increase the period in which refugees continue to receive asylum support after receiving a positive decision on their asylum application to 56 days.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Whilst there are currently no plans to extend the period, the Government is working on a number of important initiatives to ensure that refugees are able to access benefits and housing promptly once their Home Office support ends. We are ensuring that this work takes into account the views of the key voluntary sector groups, including the British Red Cross.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208296/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents/about-us/research-publications/refugee-support/still-an-ordeal-move-on-period-report.pdf>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Children

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [208393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been (a) transferred to the UK and (b) allocated a place but not yet been transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [208394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for the UK to fulfill its commitment on transferring 480 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Asylum: Children

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [208395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many offers of placements his Department has received from local authorities with the capacity to look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The government remains fully committed to delivering on our commitment to relocate the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and we continue to work very closely with participating States - France, Greece and Italy - and local authorities and delivery partners in order to meet this commitment as soon as possible.

The Home Office consulted extensively with local authorities to determine the number of unaccompanied children they would be able to support under section 67, in addition to the almost 4,500 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the care of local authorities across the country. In October 2018, the Court of Appeal confirmed that the consultation to determine the specified number was lawful.

Over 220 unaccompanied children have been transferred to the UK, and transfers of eligible children are ongoing. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details once all children are in the UK.

On 20 December 2018, the Government announced our decision to remove the date criterion for the referral of unaccompanied children in Europe to be relocated to the UK under section 67. This means that participating States are now able to refer the most vulnerable children whose best interests are served by relocation to

the UK, regardless of when they arrived into Europe. We are confident that this change will support an increase the rate of referrals from participating States. Once an eligible child is referred, the Home Office conducts relevant security checks and seeks to identify an appropriate local authority care placement that takes into account each individual child's specific needs. Home Office officials continue to work closely with local authorities to identify available care placements for children relocated to the UK under this commitment, as well as those transferred to the UK under our resettlement schemes and between local authorities under the National Transfer Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208393/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208394/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208395/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Graduates

Chris Ruane (Labour) [209328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of people with refugee status in the UK who are graduates.

Refugees: Doctors

Chris Ruane (Labour) [209329] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of people in the UK with refugee status who are qualified doctors in their home country.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of people in the UK with refugee status who are qualified doctors in their home country and those who are graduates are not recorded and held in a reportable format

This could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

However, the information relating to the number of people with refugee status in the UK can be found in tab as_01_q at volume 1 of the Asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants, by country of nationality:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209328/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209329/>

Refugees: Welfare State

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [203323] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Post Grant Appointment Service in ensuring that refugees are able to access the welfare system following a decision to grant asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As described by the British Red Cross in their report 'Still an ordeal: the move-on period for new refugees', the Post Grant Appointment Service is effective in setting up an early appointment for the refugees with their local Jobcentre, thus enabling them to make an application for mainstream benefits before they leave the asylum support system.

We will provide more information about the service when we respond to the British

Red Cross report in due course

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203323/>

Asylum

Jo Stevens (Labour) [210647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases remain unresolved after 52 weeks.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that those who need protection are granted as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal.

Information regarding the number of asylum claims which remain unresolved after 52 weeks, is routinely published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda. The latest release of which can be found at can be found at table Asy_11: Age of Asylum Initial Decision Work In Progress - applications made from 1st Oct 2006 at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018.

This table shows the number of asylum cases outstanding after 12 months for both straightforward and non-straightforward cases as at Quarter 3, 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210647/>

Asylum: Nationality

Kate Green (Labour) [202129] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inadmissibility decisions based on the concept of first country of asylum were made by the UK in 2018 by country designated as first country of asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK is committed to providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with its international obligations.

Information regarding how many inadmissible decisions based on the concept of first country of asylum made by the UK in 2018 by country designated as first country of asylum is not recorded and held in a reportable format.

This could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-13/202129/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: EU Countries

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time for a transfer under the Dublin III regulation procedure is from the moment an outgoing request is issued to the UK to the transfer to the Member State responsible.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202853] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time for a transfer under the Dublin III regulation procedure is from the moment another Member State accepts responsibility to the transfer from the UK to that Member State.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at: http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_dubto&lang=en

Under the Dublin III Regulation, member states have two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202852/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202853/>

Asylum: Housing

Fiona Onasanya (Independent) [209414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what are the minimum standards of (a) physical accommodation and (b) assistance G4S are required to provide to asylum seekers under the terms of their contract with the Home Office.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation. Where providers are found not to meet these standards, appropriate action is taken to hold providers to account and resolve concerns.

Accommodation providers are also contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they transport and accommodate. The definition of vulnerability in the contracts is the same as the one set out in the 2005 Regulations.

The particular circumstances of other supported asylum seekers and their dependants who may have other particular vulnerabilities are also carefully considered, for example because they have care needs or health problems that require a need for a specific type of accommodation or accommodation in a particular location.

Further details regarding these policies can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy>

<https://horizon.fcgs.gsi.gov.uk/file-wrapper/asylum-seekers-care-needs>

<https://horizon.fcgs.gsi.gov.uk/file-wrapper/healthcare-needs-and-pregnancy-dispersal-guidance>

The statement of Requirements for the services delivered by the accommodation providers can be found at;

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503107/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209414/>

Asylum: Employment

Keith Vaz (Labour) [203243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support to gain employment is available for asylum-seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Whilst the Home Office does not provide specific support to gain employment, asylum seekers are permitted to work, in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, if they have been waiting for a decision on their claim for 12 months or more and the delay is through no fault of their own.

Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection have immediate and unrestricted access to the labour market and benefits. Unemployed refugees are entitled to receive employment support from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [208875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 December 2018 to Question 195486 on guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children, what steps his Department is taking to (a) improve the (i) quality and (ii) timeliness of asylum decision making and (b) to ensure that decision makers understand the effects trauma can have on unaccompanied young people navigating the asylum system.

Catherine West (Labour) [208876] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish any internal reviews undertaken by his Department on the effects of the asylum process on unaccompanied and separated children navigating the asylum system alone.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office takes its responsibility for the welfare of children very seriously, including ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in every decision taken in respect of the child. We are committed to ensuring that all asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, so that those who need protection are granted as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives.

We continue to work to improve the quality of decision-making to ensure that we get decisions right the first time and that we properly consider all evidence provided. We aim to reduce the proportion of allowed appeals by analysing the reasons and using this to inform and further improve guidance and training. Similarly, the Home Office's country information and guidance is kept under review.

UKVI has an internal audit process which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy. We have Senior Case Worker assessments as well as independent auditors from the Central Operations Assurance Team who audit asylum cases and provide quarterly reports.

We have plans to improve the speed at which outstanding asylum claims are decided. These include rolling recruitment campaigns to maintain decision maker levels, a staff retention strategy to ensure it retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers, and the further expansion of digital processes to increase case working flexibility.

All asylum decision-makers who consider accompanied and unaccompanied young people's cases must attend a three day Keeping Children Safe: Tier 3 course. Part of this course is dedicated to educating decision-makers so that they can appreciate the complex psychology of asylum-seeking children. Included in this section of the course is a consideration of the effects of trauma on young children navigating the asylum system.

All decision makers also receive extensive training on how to interview asylum seekers in a sensitive way and consider the claim for sustainable decisions to be reached. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

The Home Office monitors its processes to ensure that it adheres to the very stringent statutory and policy safeguards in place regarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The children's asylum process differs to the adult process and was designed around the additional needs of children.

While in the UK, unaccompanied children are looked after by local authorities who have a statutory duty to ensure that they safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, regardless of their immigration status or nationality. Under these

arrangements, children are assessed with regard to their individual needs and provided with access to education, accommodation and health services, as would be provided to any other looked after child in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208875/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-15/208876/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195486/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [210466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children have been received by Nottinghamshire County Council under the voluntary national transfer scheme; and if he will make a statement.

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [210467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children Nottinghamshire County Council has accepted under the voluntary national transfer scheme; and if he will make a statement.

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [210468] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will list the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children each local authority area has accepted under the voluntary national transfer scheme; and if he will make a statement.

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [210469] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has for the future of the voluntary national transfer scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data on the local authorities participating in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), including the number of transfers in and out of each authority, can be found in the Asylum transparency dataset, last published in November 2018 at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018>. Since it was launched in July 2016, 790 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been transferred via the NTS. This is a significant achievement which has seen many local authorities offer placements for children whose best interests are served by transferring to another local authority. However we recognise that the scheme is not operating as effectively as we would like. We will continue to engage with local authorities across the country to encourage further offers and consider options in how best to share the burden.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210466/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210467/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210468/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210469/>

Asylum: Children

David Linden (SNP) [201715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied minors seeking asylum were detained by the UK in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Unaccompanied minors are not detained for asylum purposes in the UK.

Information on people entering detention by age, sex and place of initial detention (as at year ending September 2018) can be found 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/2018-12-12/201715/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [209874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to publish its review of time limits on immigration detention.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [209875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has conducted an assessment of the potential effect of the proposed Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill on (a) the number of people detained under immigration powers and (b) the number of Immigration Removal Centres required in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: This is an internal review designed to inform the Home Secretary's consideration on the use of immigration detention time limits in other countries.

We are looking closely at the issue of time limits to understand how we can have a detention system that is fair to those who may be detained, upholds our immigration policies, and acts as a deterrent to those who might seek to frustrate those policies. The areas that the Hon. Member refers to will inform our considerations in this regard.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-17/209874/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-17/209875/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Harriet Harman (Labour) [210454] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration detainees entered the immigration detention estate for more than 24 hours in Quarter 3 of 2018 as a result of prior decisions to detain those detainees.

Harriet Harman (Labour) [210455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration detainees who are (a) foreign national offenders (b) other detainees had been in immigration detention for (i) 28 days or fewer and (ii) over 28 days at the end of quarter 3 of 2018.

Harriet Harman (Labour) [210456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration detainees who are (a) foreign national offenders (b) other detainees had been in immigration detention for (i) 28 days or fewer and (ii) over 28 days at the end of quarter 2 of 2018.

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. ...

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210454/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210455/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210456/>

Asylum: Detainees

David Linden (SNP) [201714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people that had applied for asylum in the UK were detained in each category for detention in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history to providing refuge to those who need our protection. Information on the number of asylum claims, subsequent grants of asylum and humanitarian protection, irrespective of whether the individual was detained, is available in table as_01 of the latest release of the 'Immigration Statistics, Year Ending September 2018'. This is available on the Home Office website at;

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

Information on people entering detention in 2018 is available in table dt_01 of the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, Year Ending September 2018', available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681703/detention-september-2018-tables.ods

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-12/201714/>

Deportation: Human Trafficking

Fiona Onasanya (Independent) [209412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his policy is on police forces passing to his Department information on victims of trafficking offences who are in the UK unlawfully in order to facilitate their deportation.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The police priority is to protect victims and investigate crime and forces are extremely careful about doing anything to deter victims from reporting crime. Victims of crime should be treated as victims first and foremost. Each case is considered very carefully but there will be instances where police need to exchange information with the Home Office.

When individuals are found to have no basis in the UK, Immigration Enforcement's

(IE) immediate priority is to ensure that all vulnerable migrants receive the support and assistance they need regardless of their immigration status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-16/209412/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answer

Open Doors 2019 World Watch List

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): ... One practical step that the Government took was to create the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme to enable people to come to this country. However, the recent figures released show that in the second quarter of last year, only 0.08% of the people who came to the UK from Syria were Christians, despite over 11% of that population pre-civil war being Christians and being targeted by IS. Will my noble friend the Minister please meet with his colleagues at the Home Office to investigate the reason for this apparent disparity in the figures? Will he then communicate the reason clearly to the UK Christian community, who are left with reports from NGOs and even the *Times* saying that the Government are operating a discriminatory policy against Christians?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: First, I assure my noble friend that there is no discrimination against Christians or indeed anyone of any faith. However, she does bring to light an important issue about the situation in Syria. I am acutely aware of the challenges being faced by Christians in Syria and which continue to be faced in Iraq. We have seen appalling crimes committed against the Christian communities, as well as others. The major challenge that remains for Syrian Christians is the exodus of anyone from Syria who is of the Christian faith. My noble friend raises an important point about the Home Office scheme. I will certainly raise that with Home Office colleagues. But I assure my noble friend, and, indeed, all noble Lords, that we remain absolutely committed to ensuring that we stand up for the rights of people of all faiths and none, be it domestically or internationally.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-23/debates/82287D93-5207-46B6-937F-AC9C9CE2738A/OpenDoors2019WorldWatchList#contribution-E46AB79E-4423-4A17-BA85-B8E23EEE2A53>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL12580] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their white paper *The UK's future skills-based immigration system*, published in December 2018 (Cm 9722), how they define "sustainable levels" of migration.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A sustainable level of net migration is one which contributes to economic growth by ensuring that businesses have the labour they need to operate effectively, while at the same time not putting undue burden on communities and services and not giving rise to public concern about migration levels.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12580/>

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

Visas: Migrant Workers

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL12556] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the proposed time-limited visa route for temporary short-term workers described in The UK's future skills-based immigration system (Cm 9722), published on 19 December 2018, which countries they consider to be "low risk".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To determine low-risk countries as set out in the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System White Paper, the Home Office will consider a range of relevant factors such as returns agreements, reciprocal mobility agreements, cooperation on border security and prosperity. These measures will be re-viewed regularly, and further information will be provided in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12556/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Migrant Workers

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL12557] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether temporary short-term workers who have availed themselves of the time-limited visa route described in The UK's future skills-based immigration system (Cm 9722), published on 19 December 2018, will be allowed to return to the UK for work after their "cooling off" period of 12 months; and if so, for how long.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL12558] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether temporary short-term workers who have availed themselves of the time-limited visa route described in The UK's future skills-based immigration system (Cm 9722), published on 19 December 2018, will be permitted to change employers during their initial 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 19 December 2018 the Government published its White Paper on the UK's future skills-based immigration system. The immigration system which it outlines is designed to work for those coming to our country, businesses, our public services and the UK as a whole.

The White Paper contains proposals for a time-limited temporary short-term workers route. The White Paper sets out our initial proposals to allow these short-term workers to come to the UK for 12 months at a time, followed by a year-long cooling off period. Following that cooling off period, previous holders of a temporary short term work visa will, while the scheme remains in place, be eligible to apply for another temporary work visa to come to the UK for a further 12 month period. We will be engaging extensively with businesses and stakeholders on the length of the stay and cooling off period.

Holders of a short-term work visa will be permitted to change employers without further authorisation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12557/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12558/>

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: Windrush Generation

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL12603] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals from the Commonwealth Caribbean countries, who settled in the UK before 1973, have been determined as eligible for compensation for detrimental treatment during the hostile environment illegal immigration programme; how many have been compensated to date; how many are still awaiting settlement; what has been the cost of such compensation to date; and what estimate they have made of the overall cost.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to establishing a compensation scheme specifically, for members of the Windrush generation who have suffered loss as a result of difficulties in demonstrating their lawful immigration status.

The Home Office published a consultation paper on 19 July seeking views on the design and operation of the scheme. The consultation closed on 16 November. As the scheme is not yet in place, it is not possible to submit an application for compensation or make payments under the scheme.

We will announce details of the final scheme and how to apply as soon as possible. It is not possible to give an estimate of compensation costs before the scheme is announced.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12603/>

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL12624] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of those who have claimed asylum after arriving in the UK by crossing the Channel are (1) Iranian Christians, and (2) from minorities other than Iranian Christians persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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 en-sures that asylum claims are handled in a manner that is appropriate to the individual, including ensuring any reasonable adjustments and safeguarding 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.

However, the Home Office does not electronically record the grounds on which an individual claims asylum and so we cannot identify how many asylum claimants, from those crossing the Channel are Iranian Christians and from minorities other than Iranian Christians persecuted for their religious beliefs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12624/>

Asylum: Religion

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL12665] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will record the religious affiliation of asylum applicants reaching the UK, since persecution due to faith or religious conversion may be a cause of flight and grounds for granting refugee status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: 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 under a Convention reason, as set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention, as part of the screening process and at substantive interview stage. However, the Home Office does not electronically record the grounds on which an individual bases their asylum claim and so we cannot identify how many claims are made on the grounds of religious affiliation or how many have been granted for this reason. This could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-08/HL12665/>

Press Releases

UK and France sign action plan to tackle small boat crossings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-france-sign-action-plan-to-tackle-small-boat-crossings>

Immigration Minister visits Joint Co-ordination Centre

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-minister-visits-joint-co-ordination-centre>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Immigration policy – the countdown to Brexit

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2019/1/24/Immigration-policy---the-countdown-to-Brexit/SB19-05.pdf>

Stay in the UK after it leaves the EU ('settled status'): step by step

<https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>

EU Settlement Scheme Public pilot Important information for EU citizens in the UK

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772110/EU_Settlement_Scheme_public_pilot_-_information_for_EU_citizens_in_the_UK.pdf

Factsheet: EU Citizens Apply Now

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772111/EU_citizens_apply_now_factsheet.pdf

Updated: EU Settlement Scheme Introduction to the employer toolkit

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765084/EU-settlement-scheme-introduction-to-the-employer-toolkit.PDF

EU Settlement Scheme public beta phase: EU citizens and their family members

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772099/EUSS-public-beta-caseworker-guidance.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme public beta phase: suitability requirements

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772102/EUSS-public-beta-suitability.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding the EU Settlement Scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0068/Caroline_Nokes_to_HASC_Chair-EU_Settlement_Scheme.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme Private Beta Testing Phase 2 Report

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0068/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Private_Beta_2_Report.pdf

EU settled status application scheme walk-through (video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=5KxquWDt6yA

Immigration Health Surcharge: common casework questions

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7274>

Universal Periodic Review: Scottish Government Response to Recommendations: update

<https://tinyurl.com/y94px98a>

Brexit and EU citizens in Scotland: Impacts, challenges, and support needs

http://citizensrightsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/REPORT_EU-Citizens-Rights-project_2301.pdf

Joint action plan by the UK and France on combating illegal migration involving small boats in the English Channel

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773403/UK_France_declaration_24_Jan_13.00.pdf

News

Brexit: Theresa May scraps £65 fee for EU citizens

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46950719>

May drops £65 fee for EU nationals seeking post-Brexit settled status

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/21/may-drops-65-fee-for-eu-nationals-seeking-post-brexit-settled-status>

Plan to simplify UK's 1,100 pages of immigration rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/21/plan-to-simplify-uk-1100-pages-immigration-rules-law-commission>

How do you apply for settled status after Brexit?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-46925379/how-do-you-apply-for-settled-status-after-brexit>

Home Office may struggle to register EU settlers in time, say campaigners

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/21/home-office-may-struggle-to-register-eu-settlers-in-time-say-campaigners>

Brexit crisis could create 'Windrush' scandal from EU settlers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17372531.brexit-crisis-could-create-windrush-scandal-from-eu-settlers/>

Home Office 'risks new Windrush scandal' as EU citizens face registration

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-risks-new-windrush-scandal-as-eu-citizens-face-registration-1-4859681>

EU citizen registration in UK could become 'new Windrush', say migration experts
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/21/eu-citizen-registration-in-uk-could-become-new-windrush-say-migration-experts>

Insomnia, panic attacks, constant worry – the life of Britain’s EU citizens
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/27/eu-citizens-in-britain-insomnia-panic-attacks-worry-coping>

High court orders new inquest into Home Office role in Windrush citizen death
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/25/high-court-orders-new-inquest-into-home-office-role-in-windrush-citizen-death>

Home Office ‘spying on asylum seekers by tracking debit card use’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-home-office-spying-debit-card-aspen-hostile-environment-a8748781.html>

Home Office tracks debit card use to ‘spy’ on asylum seekers
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/home-office-tracks-debit-card-use-to-spy-on-asylum-seekers-lkqcdm7d7>

International students in Scotland, Brexit and beyond
<http://ukandeu.ac.uk/international-students-in-scotland-brexit-and-beyond/>

Residents ‘shut out’ of plans for asylum seeker accommodation in Castlemilk
<https://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/17372631.residents-shut-out-of-plans-for-asylum-seeker-accommodation-in-castlemilk/>

Illegal migrants crossing Channel to be returned in new Anglo-French deal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/24/illegal-migrants-crossing-channel-returned-new-anglo-french/>

Dinghy carrying eight suspected refugees rescued off Kent coast
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dinghy-refugees-migrants-dover-border-force-patrol-video-footage-a8737421.html>

Ashford art project helps Syrian refugees settle in
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-kent-46923739/ashford-art-project-helps-syrian-refugees-settle-in>

'Everything changed in 2016': Poles in UK struggle with Brexit
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/27/everything-changed-in-2016-poles-in-uk-struggle-with-brexit>

Soldier's daughter in Kenya denied visa to live in UK
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-46977512>

Scots soldier 'devastated' after teen daughter denied visa to live in Scotland
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/british-soldier-devastated-after-daughter-13898620>

Namibian asylum seeker to leave Dungavel as Home Office backs down
<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17374487.namibian-asylum-seeker-to-leave-dungavel-as-home-office-backs-down/>

Syrian refugee attack: Boy's family crowdfunding to sue Tommy Robinson and Facebook over 'defamation'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syrian-refugee-attack-jamal-tommy-robinson-sue-crowdfunding-facebook-huddersfield-school-a8738691.html>

Human trafficking: Victims 'stuck in limbo for years'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46945352>

Dying man given bill for tens of thousands of pounds for NHS treatment

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/22/dying-man-bill-thousands-pounds-nhs-treatment>

'I thought they were killing me': NHS trust halted asylum seeker's cancer treatment

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/21/i-thought-they-were-killing-me-nhs-trust-stops-asylum-seekers-cancer-treatment>

Home Office held eight-month-old baby with British citizenship in detention

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/21/home-office-held-eight-month-old-baby-with-british-citizenship-in-detention>

Damien Hoyland's plea over grandparents threatened with deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/damien-hoyland-s-plea-over-grandparents-threatened-with-deportation-tbr3822hd>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Kurdish Community (Relations with Police)

Ross Greer (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve the relationship between the police and the Kurdish community. (S5O-02802)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Police Scotland is committed to building positive relationships with all of Scotland's communities. Responsibility for that lies with the chief constable. However, the Scottish Government understands that Police Scotland has engaged recently with representatives of the Kurdish community to address concerns that have been raised by some of its members. I also understand that Police Scotland has engaged directly with Ross Greer, in his capacity as co-convener of the Parliament's cross-party group on Kurdistan.

Ross Greer: The cabinet secretary might be aware that police operations over recent years have resulted in members of the Kurdish community being afraid to attend their own community centres and no longer sending their children to language and dancing classes for fear of them being monitored. That is an unacceptable and unsustainable situation. Will the cabinet secretary agree to a meeting with representatives of the Kurdish community and the cross-party group on Kurdistan to discuss how we can improve relations and trust between the community and the police?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I am more than happy to engage with Ross Greer and members of the Kurdish community. He will understand that I cannot do so in relation to any live police investigations but, on the wider issue, I am more than happy to meet him, in his role as the co-convener of the cross-party group, to hear

the community's anxieties and concerns.

Over a number of years, I have engaged with Police Scotland over concerns that I, as a young Asian male and a member of the Muslim community, have had. Having been stopped and searched on numerous occasions in my younger days, when I was growing up, for no apparent reason, I know that it has taken time for Police Scotland to build back up a level of trust with the Muslim community. That takes hard work and effort. I know that the chief constable is absolutely committed to ensuring positive community relations.

Ross Greer can continue to engage directly with Police Scotland. I am more than happy to assist with that, when I can, and to listen to concerns.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11906&i=107622#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religion: Community Relations

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [210564] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how much funding her Department has allocated to interfaith projects in each of the last three years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government Equalities Office has not allocated any funding to interfaith projects during the last three years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210564/>

Faith Schools: Admissions

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [210470] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to promote inclusivity in religiously selective schools; and if he will make a statement.

Anne Milton: Like all schools, those with a designated religious character are required by law, and for academies, through their funding agreement, to promote inclusivity through supporting integration and community cohesion whatever their character and ethos. They are also required to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and to promote fundamental British values, including mutual respect and tolerance of those of other faiths and beliefs.

We know that the vast majority of schools with a religious character are open and inclusive. We believe that the broad religious literacy, which most promote, is helpful in giving students what they need to navigate our multicultural society.

In its response to the "Schools that work for everyone" consultation, the department announced the retention of the 50% cap on faith admissions in faith free schools.

We also announced strengthened expectations on integration to ensure that the potential impact on the intake of neighbouring schools is assessed, before a new school is approved.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210470/>

The UK Government response referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706243/Schools_that_work_for_everyone-Government_consultation_response.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religion: Educational Institutions

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench) [HL12874] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for a specific educational institute in the UK to promote religious inclusiveness and the awareness of all faiths.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: In the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published last year, the Government set out its commitment to building strong, integrated communities where people – whatever their background – live, learn, work and socialise together based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. All schools are required to promote Fundamental British Values, which include mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and there are a range of existing sources of advice and guidance for schools on religious awareness.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-15/HL12874/>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

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

News

'My son was terrified': how Prevent alienates UK Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/27/prevent-muslim-community-discrimination>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Females: Judaism

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [210563] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Sara conference of 26 November 2018, what plans his Department has to encourage more Jewish women to participate in public life.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government was pleased to support the Sara Conference in November 2018. It was an important platform for policy-makers, public figures, and experts to discuss the intersectionality between antisemitism and sexism, and an important start to understanding how antisemitic abuse targeted at women can be tackled. The conference set the future direction for organisations dedicated to this issue, such as the Antisemitism Policy Trust. We will continue to work closely with the Antisemitism Policy Trust as they develop this important work and encourage women to enter public life.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210563/>

Secure Accommodation: Ethnic Groups

Richard Burgon (Labour) [208327] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many incidents of segregation have occurred at each secure institution that holds children by each ethnic group in each of the last five years for which information is available.

Reply from Edward Argar: Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) do not hold the specific information requested centrally but are currently reviewing how segregation data is collected across each establishment in the Youth Estate. However, in answering PQ 141024, we did provide a breakdown of the total number of hours young people spent in segregation in each Young Offender Institution, where data is available, over the last 5 years.

The safety and welfare of young people in our care is the core priority of the Youth Custody Service, There are some occasions when it is necessary to remove children from association because their behaviour is likely to be so disruptive that keeping them on ordinary location would be unsafe, or because their own safety and wellbeing cannot reasonably be assured by other means. We are clear removal from association must only be used under specified safeguards and regular review, where children are putting themselves and others at risk. As far as possible, children removed from association have access to a regime that is comparable to the normal regime including entitlements to social and legal visits, religious services, access to the phone, education, showers and exercise in the open air and where possible, in association with other removed children. Throughout removal, the child will continue to have regular contact with staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-14/208327/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-03/141024/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Health Services: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL12766] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the commitment to address health inequalities in the NHS Long Term Plan, published on 10 January, what steps they intend to take to tackle the health inequalities experienced by members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: During 2019 all local health systems will be expected to set out how they will reduce health inequalities by 2023/24 and 2028/29 including, where applicable, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.

We are reviewing the collection of data within the National Health Service and working closely with NHS England to complete a scoping exercise to understand how information on protected characteristics is gathered in existing NHS datasets. The Department plans to complete an initial assessment later this year, which will form the basis for future decision-making on NHS data collection by ethnicity.

NHS England has produced guidance for general practices clarifying rights of patients and responsibilities of providers in registering with a general practitioner. It also co-produced a leaflet for members of the GRT communities on how to register. These will be kept under review.

The Department of Health and Social Care is also working closely with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Education on six community-led pilot projects, two of which are looking to improve health outcomes for GRT communities.

The Government commissioned research from the universities of Dundee and York examining how trust in healthcare services could be enhanced amongst Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. The report, *Enhancing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples' trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream service provision*, was published in September 2018. It has made eight key recommendations to the health sector and other key providers, which include increasing collaborative working with those that already have trusted relationships with GRT communities e.g. individuals from third sector organisations, individual health or other sector professionals; and suggested the introduction of literacy help-cards throughout the NHS. These are cards that can be presented to front line staff or receptionists to ask for discreet help with form-filling. A copy of the report is attached.

[Report on GRT health.pdf](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-10/HL12766/>

The Long Term Plan referred to above, and background information about the plan, can be read at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL12767] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to raise awareness among local authorities and housing associations that the Affordable Homes Programme covers funding for Traveller sites; how many applications proposing Traveller sites have been made; and how many of those have been approved since April 2016.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: On 14 June 2017, we published 'Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme supplementary information – Continuous Market Engagement (CME),' which includes details on funding for traveller pitches. This document is available (attached) here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/shared-ownership-and-affordable-homes-programme-supplementary-information-continuous-market-engagement-cme>

We have not approved any new traveller pitches since April 2016 – our Live Tables on affordable housing delivery are available (attached) online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-affordable-housing-supply>

Government does not publish details of applications for funding from the Affordable Homes Programme.

[Shared Ownership and affordable homes](#)

[Affordable housing](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-10/HL12767/>

New Publication

Ethnic minority labour market participation interventions: part 1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773018/interventions-supporting-ethnic-minority-labour-market-participation-part-one.pdf

News

Greater diversity in Scotland's teaching profession needed, MSPs told

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17375748.greater-diversity-in-scotlands-teaching-profession-needed-msps-told/>

'I'm mixed-race, is Cambridge University right for me?'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-46950952>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Remembering the Holocaust

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11909&i=107677#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Holocaust Memorial Day

Tom Arthur (SNP): To ask the First Minister how the Scottish Government is marking Holocaust memorial day. (S5F-03010)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): We must never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides around the world, which are a stark reminder of the inhumanity and violence that bigotry and intolerance can cause if left unchallenged. Last year, as I have noted in the chamber before, I joined young people from 89 Scottish schools on a Holocaust Educational Trust visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. I will never forget what I saw there and I am sure that neither will the young people who were with me. We must never forget what antisemitism can lead to if it is not challenged and why education about tolerance, compassion and respect is so important.

Next week, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government will speak at this year's national event to mark international Holocaust memorial day, which will take place in East Renfrewshire. I know that a members' business debate on the subject will take place later today. I also had the honour of signing the Holocaust memorial day book of commitment in Parliament earlier this week.

Tom Arthur: Two of the most important lessons of the Holocaust are about the capacity of human beings to systematically inflict suffering and death on other human beings and about the fact that such actions could take place in what had been regarded as an advanced society.

A third lesson, which the First Minister referred to, is about the consequences of leaving hate and discrimination unchallenged. What began with casual antisemitism, laced with conspiracy theories and pseudo-science, traversed a darkening spectrum of increasing social and economic marginalisation that led ultimately to the factories of death at Chelmno, Majdanek, Treblinka, Belzec, Sobibór and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

As the Holocaust slowly passes from living memory, will the First Minister advise the Parliament on how the Scottish Government will continue to support work to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved for future generations and that future generations are taught those lessons, which we must never forget?

Reply from the First Minister: I thank Tom Arthur for reminding us so eloquently and powerfully of the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides and for

reminding us, particularly in the world that we live in today, of the importance of no one being a bystander in the face of intolerance and hate.

When we stand at the end of the railway line in Birkenau, as many in the chamber have done, we realise powerfully that the Holocaust did not start there; it ended there. It got to that stage because hatred, antisemitism and intolerance were tolerated by many people. As we mark Holocaust memorial day this year, the most important message is that we must not be bystanders.

As the Holocaust passes out of living memory, it is vital that the next generations remember and learn the lessons. Learning about the Holocaust is part of international citizenship education, which is central to curriculum for excellence.

In addition, the Scottish Government supports the Holocaust Educational Trust's lessons from Auschwitz programme, which includes a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau and aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust. I have made a very public commitment to the trust that, as long as I am the First Minister, we will continue that support. I am sure that all parties are committed to continuing that support long into the future.

Students who participate in the programme become Holocaust ambassadors in their schools and communities, and they do excellent work to keep remembrance alive. In our roles as constituency and regional MSPs, it is important for us all to support those fantastic young ambassadors, who not only keep the memory of the Holocaust alive but help to pass on to the next generation and beyond the message about not tolerating hatred.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11909&i=107674#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Females: Antisemitism

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [210562] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to tackle antisemitism against women.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government was pleased to support the Sara Conference in November 2018. The conference focused specifically on the intersectionality between antisemitism and sexism, looking particularly at the experience of Jewish women in public life. The conference brought together an excellent cross-section of policy makers, academics, and other experts, and set the agenda for what key organisations in this regard, such as the Antisemitism Policy Trust, will do going forward. The Government will continue to work closely with the Antisemitism Policy Trust, to understand this specific threat and to support their work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-21/210562/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Religious Hatred: Islam

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench) [HL12853] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 14 January (HL Deb, col 7), what evidence there is that there are more attacks on the Muslim community than any other.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government treats all forms of hate crime equally seriously. Two separate statistical sources used by Government show the scale of hate crimes targeted at Muslims in relation to hate crimes against

other faith groups.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2018, portrays the experience of hate crime. It is estimated that 0.1 per cent of adults (105,459) were victims of a religiously motivated hate crime in the 12 months prior to interview. The 2015/16 to 2017/18 CSEW showed that 0.8% of Muslim adults were the victim of religiously motivated hate crime, which was the highest percentage for a faith group where data is available.

The full breakdown from the CSEW is as follows:

Christian - (61,804) 0.0%

Buddhist - (489) 0.0%

Hindu 0.5 - (1,326) 0.5%

Muslim - (3,480) 0.8%

Other - (1,553) 0.2%

No religion - (36,518) 0.0%

Statistics for police recorded crime, also published in October 2018, show that hate crimes motivated by religion have increased by 40% from 2016/17 to 2017/18, representing the largest percentage increase of all hate crime strands (comprising race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender). The 2017/18 police statistics were the first to reflect the mandatory break down of hate crime reporting by perceived religion, and provided a breakdown based on the targeted religion of victims of religiously motivated hate crimes. They show that 52% of religiously-motivated hate crimes recorded by the police comprised anti-Muslim hostility.

The full breakdown of police recorded hate crime is as follows:

Buddhist - (19) 0%

Christian - (264) 5%

Hindu - (58) 1%

Jewish - (672) 12%

Muslim - (2,965) 52%

Sikh - (117) 2%

Other - (311) 5%

No religion - (237) 4%

Unknown - (1,174) 21%

Total number of targeted religions 5,817

Total number of offences 5,680

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-15/HL12853/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Press Releases

Commissioner Jourovà: Countering the old disease Antisemitism in Europe – ways forward

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-19-581_en.htm

Tackling ‘deeply worrying’ global rise in anti-Semitism is a job for all societies everywhere, says UN chief

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/01/1031392>

Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust: "Holocaust remembrance: Demand and defend your human rights"

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24121&LangID=E>

Antisemitism in the EU persists seven decades after the Holocaust

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/antisemitism-eu-persists-seven-decades-after-holocaust>

New Publications

Universal Periodic Review: Scottish Government Response to Recommendations: update

<https://tinyurl.com/y94px98a>

Eurobarometer: Perceptions of antisemitism

<http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/ResultDoc/download/DocumentKy/85035>

Fact Sheet: Q&A – Eurobarometer survey on Antisemitism in Europe

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-19-542_en.htm

News

Anas Sarwar fears for family's safety after year of racist death threats against Labour MSP

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/anas-sarwar-fears-familys-safety-13904004>

Three await trial for racist threats to Muslim MSP Anas Sarwar

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/three-people-await-trial-for-threatening-muslim-politician-lxx205pv>

Anti-Semitism row former MP Jim Sheridan reinstated

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47008995>

Tories condemn 'appalling' decision by Labour to reinstate former Scottish MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tories-condemn-appalling-decision-by-labour-to-reinstate-former-scottish-mp-1-4862892>

Former Labour MP reinstated after antisemitism row calls accusers 'misguided'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/26/jim-sheridan-former-labour-mp-suspended-over-antisemitism-row-says-accusers-misguided>

Jim Sheridan: Ex-Labour MP suspended over comments about Jewish community 'delighted' to be reinstated

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jim-sheridan-labour-antisemitism-suspended-jewish-comments-investigation-a8747711.html>

'Anti-Jewish' ex-MP Jim Sheridan back in Labour fold

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/anti-jewish-ex-mp-jim-sheridan-back-in-labour-fold-djpvv7bjx>

Labour still not doing enough about antisemitism, says Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-still-not-doing-enough-about-antisemitism-says-rabbi-ephraim-mirvis-xgqfm78ff>

Councillor 'scared' after article by Tommy Robinson backer

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/23/councillor-scared-after-article-by-tommy-robinson-backer>

Newcastle Islamic school vandalism is 'hate crime'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-47015434>

Holocaust Memorial Day: 'Shocking' levels of denial remain

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47015184>

One in 20 does not believe Holocaust took place

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17387967.one-in-20-does-not-believe-holocaust-took-place>

Let's not forget the horrors of the present as we remember the past

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17388031.vicky-allan-lets-not-forget-the-horrors-of-the-present-as-we-remember-the-past/>

One in 20 Britons does not believe Holocaust took place, poll finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/27/one-in-20-britons-does-not-believe-holocaust-happened>

More than 2.6m Brits are Holocaust deniers, poll finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/holocaust-memorial-day-poll-uk-jews-murdered-nazi-germany-hope-not-hate-a8746741.html>

More than 2.6m Brits are Holocaust deniers, poll finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/holocaust-memorial-day-poll-uk-jews-murdered-nazi-germany-hope-not-hate-a8746741.html>

Far-right activity at universities rising as more young people deny Holocaust, experts warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/far-right-holocaust-memorial-day-denial-universities-jewish-students-antisemitism-extremism-a8747181.html>

How the Kindertransport rescued 10,000 Jewish children from the Nazis

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/holocaust-memorial-day-2019-kindertransport-jewish-children-rescued-nazis-second-world-war-a8745676.html>

Rachel Riley to get extra security after receiving online threats

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jan/26/rachel-riley-countdown-extra-security-online-abuse>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Supporting victims of crime

S5O-02808 Joan McAlpine (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it supports victims of crime.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: In 2018-19 we are providing £17.9 million to support victims of crime, including to third sector organisations who provide practical and emotional support to victims and their families. We will provide £18 million in 2019-20 to continue this work, increasing from £5.4 million in 2016-17.

The Lord Advocate and I also co-chair the Victims Taskforce, which met for the first time last month. The Taskforce was established to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the experiences of victims within the criminal justice system. The work of the Taskforce will be directly informed by victims' voices.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-02808>

Press Release

Presiding Officer launches nation-wide competition for young film makers to mark 20 years of Holyrood

... The Parliament is looking for students and modern apprentices to submit one-minute films on the impact Holyrood and devolved governance has had over the last 20 years across all regions and communities in Scotland. Each institution will select a maximum of five pitches for consideration by the selection panel. Thirty of the most promising proposals will be shortlisted. Students will then be invited to pitch their ideas to a panel of leading industry figures. The 20 winners will then be supported by their institutions to produce their final film. ...

The Presiding Officer, the Rt. Hon. Ken Macintosh MSP said: "This competition is all about encouraging students to think about the impact the Parliament has had over the past 20 years, not only to their own lives but in their local area.

For MSPs at Holyrood, it holds out the prospect of new insights and perspectives on the way our Parliament has helped shape Scotland over two decades and hopefully how we learn from that too. For the students, it is an opportunity to work with some of the best film makers in the industry and to have their documentaries screened in the unique setting of the Scottish Parliament." ...

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/110879.aspx>

News

Scottish Government refuse to publish independence referendum legal advice

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-refuse-to-publish-independence-referendum-legal-advice-1-4861300>

Scotland facing 'new devolution' as fresh post-Brexit powers come to Holyrood

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-facing-new-devolution-as-fresh-post-brexit-powers-come-to-holyrood-1-4859540>

Alex Salmond charged with attempted rape

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-46984747>

Former First Minister Alex Salmond arrested and charged

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17381791.former-first-minister-alex-salmond-arrested-and-charged/>

Alex Salmond vows to fight charges as he's 'innocent of any criminality'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/alex-salmond-vows-to-fight-charges-as-he-s-innocent-of-any-criminality-1-4862225>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Islam: Legal Systems

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL12576] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ruling by the Grand Committee of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Molla Sali v. Greece on the application of sharia law, issued on 19 December 2018; what plans, if any, they have to (1) provide support to women and girls in the UK who suffer as a result of the application of sharia law, and (2) ensure that relevant vulnerable people are made aware of their rights in relation to the application of sharia law within the UK judicial system.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Grand Chamber found that the difference of treatment suffered by the applicant, as a beneficiary of a will drawn up in accordance with the Greek Civil Code by a testator of Muslim faith, as compared to a beneficiary of a will drawn up in accordance with the Civil Code by a non-Muslim testator, had no objective and reasonable justification, contrary to the applicant's rights under Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights read in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention. The Government's initial assessment is that the judgment does not affect inheritance law in England and Wales. Inheritance law in Scotland and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. People may choose to abide by the interpretation and application of Sharia principles if they wish to do so, provided their actions do not conflict with the national law. All individuals retain the right to seek a remedy through the English and Welsh courts in the event of a dispute, and the law of England and Wales in relation to the inheritance of property prevails.

The independent Sharia review was published in February 2018. The Government's commitments in response, including supporting awareness raising campaigns with voluntary organisations, can be found in the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper published in March 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12576/>

A press release about the ECHR ruling referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/ycdx5ovc>

and the full judgement at

<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-188985>

The Sharia Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678478/6.4152_HO_CPFGR_Report_into_Sharia_Law_in_the_UK_WEB.pdf

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

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

New Publication

Differences in child obesity by ethnic group

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/differences-in-child-obesity-by-ethnic-group/differences-in-child-obesity-by-ethnic-group>

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Other News

Metropolitan Police strip-searching children in cases 'not properly justified', inspection finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/metropolitan-police-strip-searching-children-london-crime-inspection-law-a8728971.html>

Met police 'disproportionately' use stop and search powers on black people

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/jan/26/met-police-disproportionately-use-stop-and-search-powers-on-black-people>

Council of Europe calls for Muslim couples in UK to legally have to register marriage before or during Islamic ceremony

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/council-of-europe-sharia-law-muslims-couples-marriage-women-protection-a8743341.html>

Scotland looks to introduce FGM protection orders

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scotland-looks-to-introduce-fgm-protection-orders-8xfkls3qd>

Walsall Council wins Muslim graves High Court battle

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-46958597>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

Justice Committee backs Vulnerable Witnesses Bill
<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/110838.aspx>

Stage 1 Report, Justice Committee
<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/J/2019/1/24/Stage-1-Report-on-the-Vulnerable-Witnesses--Criminal-Evidence---Scotland--Bill/JS052019R1.pdf>

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: The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** 'Adults at Risk' in immigration detention** (closing date 14 February 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>

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/>

**** European responses to irregular migration** (closing date 25 February 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/irregular-migration-launch-17-19/>

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)

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

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.

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

5 February 2019 in Glasgow

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

**** Still Not Visible: Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experiences of Employment in Scotland**

19 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.15)

Close the Gap conference to launch a new report exploring BME women's employment
experiences including recruitment, workplace culture, training, and childcare. For
information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaajacx4>

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>

**** Fostering Good Race Relations in Scotland**

26 February 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.00)

CRER event to address the challenges and opportunities of fostering good relations, including the potential and pitfalls of using the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey in policy aimed at fostering good race relations, the role of local Integration Plans and Community Cohesion Plans in fostering good race relations in other areas of Britain, and fostering good race relations in the community and public sectors, in theory and practice. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9f435sy>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

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

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>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

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

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

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

**** Equality and intersectionality**

29 March 2019 in Edinburgh (12.00-4.00)

University of Edinburgh and Equality Network event to share learning about equality work and applying intersectionality across cities, sectors and countries of the UK, and network with people working in equality third sector organisations in England and Scotland, people in the public sector, academics and equality policy makers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaerx9fm>

Inclusion Cultivation

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

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

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

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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/>



gov.scot

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

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