



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

Contents

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 18 February 2019.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15707 Gordon MacDonald (SNP): Hard-line Visa Controls' Impact on Edinburgh's Festivals – That the Parliament notes with concern the growing impact of what it sees as the UK Government's hostile immigration policy on the ability of the Edinburgh's festivals to attract international guests; understands that acclaimed international writers, actors and musicians have been forced to cancel trips to the capital's festivals in recent years after what it sees as hard-line visa controls were introduced; believes that the situation can only worsen after Brexit; calls on the UK Government to seek a more streamlined approach, in light of festival programmes reportedly being hit by visa refusals, errors and delays; appreciates the work of Deidre Brock MP, who has continually supported the festivals and artists, and has recently made an urgent request

to meet the UK immigration minister to discuss the matter; considers that the Edinburgh festivals are essential to cultural and social life in the city, and believes that the reputation of Edinburgh as a global gathering place is being put at risk by what it sees as narrow-minded, xenophobic policies.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15707>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid) [HCWS1313] The Government launched a public consultation on 19 July 2018 seeking views on proposals for a Windrush compensation scheme. I am today updating the House on the progress of the Government's response to that consultation. Righting the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation remains one of my top priorities.

The consultation period was originally intended to last 12 weeks. I made a written statement on 11 October extending the consultation period, on the advice of Martin Forde QC, the independent adviser I appointed to oversee the development of the scheme. I agreed to this extension in order to give all those who would like to respond, the opportunity to do so.

Over 1,000 leaflets advertising the consultation were delivered via volunteers and community groups, and over 2,500 paper copies of the consultation document were distributed. The document was published on gov.uk, and information about the consultation was disseminated via email and social media. Assistance in completing responses was available through a freephone helpline and email address.

During the consultation period twelve focus groups were also held, involving over 300 participants. These took place in Croydon, Birmingham, Cardiff, Newport, Walsall, Woolwich, Leicester, Brixton, Wolverhampton, Reading, Coventry and Telford.

Since the consultation closed on 16 November, we have given very careful consideration to the 1,435 responses that were received from people and organisations, as well as the feedback from the focus groups. These views have been considered in addition to the 650 responses to the call for evidence which preceded the consultation. I also have met with Martin Forde QC to discuss his views on the design of the scheme.

I intend to publish the formal Government response to the consultation shortly, which will set out the detailed design of the scheme. I will also publish more detailed rules and guidance about the scheme, and information about how eligible claimants can apply. The compensation scheme will then be opened for claims as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation and who took part in the wider engagement throughout this period. The views and experiences that have been shared have proved invaluable in shaping the Government's policy, ensuring it addresses the matters raised by those affected.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-08/debates/19020852000010/Immigration>

Automatic Immigration Bail Referral Pilot

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1309] On 24 July 2018, the Home Secretary laid before Parliament the second independent review by Stephen Shaw CBE, into immigration detention. In responding to that review, the Home Secretary committed to going further and faster with the reforms to immigration detention in four priority areas: encouraging and supporting voluntary returns; improving the support available to vulnerable detainees; increasing transparency around immigration detention; and a new drive on dignity in detention.

As a part of this commitment, the Home Secretary, in agreement with the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, announced plans to pilot an additional automatic bail referral to the First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber at the two-month point, halving the time in detention before a first bail referral.

I am pleased to announce that this pilot will commence on 10 February. It will run for six months and will be evaluated fully. This is an important additional safeguard for those who are detained, giving them certainty that their detention is subject to further independent judicial oversight. It builds on the current automatic bail referral regime at the four-month point which was introduced last year. I have written to the Chairs of the Home Affairs Select Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights with more detail on the pilot and I will place copies of those letters in the Libraries of both Houses.

Together with the Ministry of Justice, we will consider the key outcomes of the pilot, as part of our continued efforts to ensure we 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 immigration control.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-07/debates/19020725000011/AutomaticImmigrationBailReferralPilot>

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

Windrush Scheme

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): Righting the wrongs done to the Windrush generation has been at the forefront of my priorities as Home Secretary. That is why I apologised on behalf of this Government and our predecessors. History shows that members of the Windrush generation, who have done so much to enrich our country, were wrongly caught up in measures designed to tackle illegal migration long before 2010. We all bear some responsibility for that. This Government are acting to right that wrong. Our Windrush taskforce is helping those who have been affected. We are making it easier for those affected to stay and we have waived all fees. By the end of last year, some 2,450 individuals had been given documentation confirming their status. They were all helped by the taskforce which we set up in April. At least 3,400 have been granted citizenship under the Windrush scheme, which we opened on 30 May 2018.

The taskforce's vulnerable persons team has provided support to 614 individuals, with 52 cases ongoing, and it continues to receive up to 20 new referrals each week. The taskforce has made 215 referrals to the Department for Work and Pensions to help people to restore or receive benefits, 177 individuals have been given advice and support on issues relating to housing, and 164 individuals have been identified by the historical cases review unit. Eighteen people have been identified who we consider to have suffered detriment due to their right to be in the UK not being recognised. Sadly, three of them are now deceased. I have written to the remaining 15 to apologise.

As part of putting right what has gone wrong, we are putting in place a compensation scheme to address the losses suffered by those affected. We have consulted on this to ensure we get it right, and we will bring forward more detail on the final shape of the compensation scheme as soon as possible, having carefully considered the views submitted. In December, the Home Office also published a policy for providing support in urgent and exceptional circumstances. This set out the approach and decision-making process for such cases. The policy will support those who have an urgent and exceptional need, and compelling reasons for why they cannot wait for the full compensation scheme. Mr Speaker, I said on the day I became Home Secretary that I am determined to right the wrongs suffered by members of the Windrush generation. Let there be no doubt: my commitment remains resolute.

David Lammy (Labour): ... Your Department's treatment of the Windrush generation has been nothing less than a national scandal. In November, we learned that at least 164 Windrush citizens were wrongly removed, detained or stopped at the border by our own Government. Eleven of those who were wrongly deported have died. You have announced three more today. ...

Every single one of these cases is a shocking indictment of this Government's pandering to far right racism, sham immigration targets and the dog whistle of the right-wing press. The Home Secretary has spoken about being a second generation migrant himself. On taking this job he promised to do whatever it takes to put this wrong right. We are now 10 months on from when the scandal broke. Not a penny has been paid out to any Windrush victim in a compensation scheme. The independent Windrush lessons learned review has not yet reported. I say to you, Home Secretary, before the review is even complete, why, why are you deporting people? We have heard about deportation flights to Jamaica this week. You have detained up to 50 black British residents and given them open window removal notices. Why are you deporting them, given that this review has not reported and there has been no compensation?

How can you be confident that you are not making the same mistakes? Movement for Justice is working with 26 of those who are at risk of removal. Thirteen first came to the UK as children; nine came under the age of 10. Eleven people have indefinite leave to remain. Another has a British passport. Thirty-six British children will have their parents taken away by this charter flight—once enslaved, then colonised and now repatriated. Why do you say that these children should live without their parents? Why do you say, to the families of black British people who have been killed by your Department's incompetence, that this is acceptable? That is what happens. We are now 20 years on from the Macpherson review, which found institutional racism in this country. I ask the Home Secretary: why is it that still in this country, black lives matter less?

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... The right hon. Gentleman chooses to ignore that, for members of the Windrush generation who have been affected in a wrong way ... this began under previous Governments and continued under successive Governments ...

... sadly, some people who were wronged are deceased, but he should know that a number of those people died under a Labour Government. The deportations took place under a Labour Government and he makes no apology for that. The right hon. Gentleman mentions the deportations of foreign national offenders. I think the information that he referred to, if I have understood him correctly, is about a charter flight to Jamaica of foreign national offenders only—every single one of them convicted of a serious crime. ...

... we are absolutely committed to making sure that those who were wronged receive proper compensation. That is why I appointed an independent person, Martin Forde, QC, who has done an enormous amount of good work on this. ...

Afzal Khan (Labour): This morning, the news broke that Ms Sims had been denied help from the Windrush compensation scheme because she was not from the Caribbean. Just like Windrush, this is a result of the Government ignoring credible warnings about the impact of their policies. The National Audit Office found that the Home Office showed a surprising "lack of curiosity about individuals who may have been affected, and who are not of Caribbean heritage."

What steps is the Home Secretary taking to ensure that, as Martin Forde QC has recommended, officials are aware that people other than those from the Caribbean are eligible? Will he commit to widening the remit of the Windrush review and compensation scheme? Can he justify Windrush victims being defined so narrowly? Some 186 people were formally refused help from the Windrush scheme. Can he guarantee that none of them was in fact eligible?

We have heard reports that the Home Office is restarting charter flights to Jamaica. Like

those of many MPs, my constituency office phone has been ringing off the hook. Some 85,000 people have signed a petition. Why does the Home Secretary consider now an appropriate time to restart these flights? Victims of this scandal have not yet received compensation. The Windrush lessons learned review has not yet reported. A full year after the scandal broke, we do not know how many people have already been detained or deported. The hostile environment remains in place.

I understand that many of the detainees have been convicted of a criminal offence, but after Windrush, the Government have not proved they have the processes in place to make sure the wrong people do not end up on this flight. Will the Home Secretary urgently bring proof to this House that none of the people on the flight is a British citizen or has any other claim to be in this country? ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Gentleman raised the case of Ms Willow Sims, who I heard on the radio this morning. It was the first time I had heard about the case, and I was very concerned. She said she had written to me, which I was interested to hear, and I checked this morning. We received the letter on 28 January, which might help to explain why I have not seen the letter yet. That said, the Department was aware of the case before that, because her Member of Parliament wrote to the Department—in October, I believe—and Ms Sims is now getting the help she deserves. We will look further at why she was turned down for help by the taskforce, because that should not have happened.

The hon. Gentleman then mentioned the compliant environment. I remind him and the House that what he refers to as the compliant environment, which is about taking action against those who are in the UK illegally—in other words, people who have broken the law—began with laws that were passed under a previous Labour Government in 1997, 1999, 2002 and 2008 ...

The hon. Gentleman mentioned the compensation scheme, which I have said a bit about already. We are determined to have it in place, and I want it to be as fair and as generous as possible, but, in the meantime, the exceptional payment scheme has begun. ...

The hon. Gentleman mentioned foreign national offenders. I want to make it very clear that the flight in question ... is to Jamaica and that everyone on it who is being deported is a foreign national offender from Jamaica. All of them have been convicted of serious crimes, such as rape, murder, firearms offences and drug trafficking, and we are required by law, quite correctly, to deport anyone with such a serious conviction. ...

To read the very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-05/debates/42CB5979-2771-437A-B169-2CDC0BB48480/WindrushScheme>

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

The Minister of State for the Home Office, Baroness Williams of Trafford, repeated the statement given by the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, in the House of Commons (above)

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, reading the coverage of the Willow Sims case highlighted for me why people are worried about the ability of the Home Office to deal with these matters correctly. Can the Minister tell the House which Minister at the Home Office is responsible for the oversight of Windrush matters? How does that oversight take place? Is it a regular meeting with officials, the receipt of written reports or both—or some other mechanism? How is it that they have failed so badly in this case to exercise their duties properly and to avoid cases such as Willow Sims being treated so badly, as we have heard today?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we do not usually talk about individual cases but, of course, this case was brought up earlier in another place with my right honourable friend the Home Secretary. He said earlier that the letter was received only at the end of last week. It is now Tuesday. He has said that he will deal with it as a priority.

I think that the Windrush issue shames all Governments of the last 40 years or so. The Home Secretary has endeavoured in every way to make right the wrongs, as he said, and the failures of successive Governments. Not only are the Windrush task force and Windrush scheme in place, the exceptional circumstances scheme and the compensation scheme—the details of which will be released very shortly—are also in place. We cannot rewrite history, but we can make right the wrongs suffered by these people over generations.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, in reporting on the Windrush generation, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, of which I am a member, said: “We note that the new Home Secretary”—as he then was—“has instructed officials to take a sympathetic and proactive approach. A more humane approach to dealing with people who come into contact with the immigration enforcement system is indeed needed”.

We commented on the need for “quality assurance” and were told that a process for that was in place, although we have not heard details.

Willow Sims, who was mentioned by the noble Lord, appears to have run into trouble when a DBS check was made as long ago as last April. The Statement mentions referrals to the DWP. This is a matter for the whole of government. Quality assurance should apply to all departments that are involved. Are the other departments, including the DWP, exercising common sense and quality assurance and making referrals to the Home Office to sort out problems, which, as a matter of common sense, one would like to see?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Certainly, there has to be a co-ordinated approach to this whole Windrush issue, as the noble Baroness said, and quality assurance is absolutely paramount given what some of these people have suffered, some for many years. So she is absolutely right. The DWP is certainly one of the referral routes for the Windrush generation because some of them may have lost or not been able to receive benefits to which they are entitled. I totally take her point. Yes, my right honourable friend did say when he became Home Secretary that a humane approach was definitely the new culture within the Home Office.

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench): My Lords, I have learned about midnight flights for deportees to the Caribbean. ... would it not be a gesture of post-Brexit good will to declare what some countries have done: a carefully constructed amnesty leading into our next-stage immigration policy?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Viscount should be clear about what and whom he means when he talks about midnight flights. ... the people who are set to be deported to the Caribbean are rapists, murderers and people involved in drugs and firearms. Does the noble Viscount really mean an amnesty for serious criminality?

Viscount Waverley: No, I was talking about a more general point that possibly, going into a post-Brexit situation, the Home Office might wish to consider amnesty for certain types of individuals. ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... Certainly, the approach that we took post Windrush was that the task force took not a lenient but a generous view when people came forward to try to prove their status and right to remain in this country. There was not a culture of saying no, but of saying yes when people tried to get that documentation approved.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Home Secretary insisted in the other place that the planned charter flights to deport people from the UK to Jamaica would

involve only foreign national offenders ... But how can the Government be sure that they are foreign nationals, bearing in mind that hundreds of the Windrush generation who were entitled to live in the UK have been wrongly deported, made unemployed and denied benefits? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... They are not only foreign national offenders but serious criminals. ... obviously someone who was here before 1973 would have an assumed status, but just because you came here as an infant or child does not exempt you from the provisions in the UK Borders Act 2007, which the Labour Government rightly brought in to ensure that people convicted and sentenced to 12 months or more should be deported.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, will the Windrush unit, or something parallel to it in the sharing of expertise, be deployed to assist EU citizens? ... A lot of elderly people might be in a state of uncertainty and anxiety, and one sees the potential for similar issues to arise. Is the Home Office gearing up to deploy its expertise or personnel in those cases?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Certainly, the Windrush task force has stood ready to help anyone who has been here since before 1988 and would like to regularise their status. It has not precluded people from member states of the European Union, and that would include older people.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark: I asked the Minister earlier about the process of oversight by Ministers. Can she explain that to us? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... the Home Secretary took absolute ownership of this issue right from the start, but I am sure that he liaises with other Ministers such as the Immigration Minister.

To read the statement and question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-05/debates/BA57B639-BE74-4A28-8ECF-C0F7D811B45D/WindrushScheme>

The Joint Committee on Human Rights report referred to above can be read at
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1034/1034.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Windrush Scandal

Dawn Butler (Labour): This week I had a phone call with regard to a young man who tried to commit suicide and a mother who felt that she did not want to burden her children any more, all because of the Windrush scandal. They say that to educate a woman is to educate a nation; therefore, to humiliate a woman is to humiliate a nation. Will the Minister assure the House that the Government will provide urgent and necessary help, support and assistance to women and vulnerable people affected by the Windrush scandal?

Reply from the Minister for Women (Victoria Atkins): May I again set out the Government's apology to those who have suffered through this terrible incident and reflect on the fact that this was not just one Government who got it wrong, but many Governments of all political colours? I welcome the fact that colleagues across the House are bringing individual constituency cases to our attention. We can then feed them into the system that has been set up so that we can provide help and support. The hon. Lady must, of course, let us know of any cases she wishes to raise, but the Government must learn from mistakes, which was why we set up the review. We are pleased that more than 4,000 people have been helped through the scheme—not just Windrush victims, but people from other countries. It is very much a work in progress, but we welcome Members across the House continuing to raise these issues in the Chamber.

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Public Consultation

Kate Green (Labour) [214041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the White Paper entitled The UK's future skills-based immigration system, published in December 2018, Cm 9722, published on 19 December 2018, what plans are in place for conversations with people and businesses over the next twelve months; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Publishing the White Paper is the start of a new conversation on immigration. We are launching an extensive year long programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including the private, public and voluntary sector, employers and businesses, as well as the EU and international partners. We are also launching a number of new advisory groups and expand on existing forums, consisting of business and employer representatives, to help inform the detailed design of the future immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214041/>

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

Immigrants: DNA

Kate Green (Labour) [194179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of his Department's compliance with data protection regulations and law in relation to DNA samples which were wrongly required to support immigration applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is currently considering the possible data protection implications associated with the incorrect mandating of DNA information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194179/>

Visas: Biometrics

Naz Shah (Labour) [215209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of printing IHS numbers on biometric cards for visa applicants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) number is not used by the NHS for administrative purposes and there is no advantage in printing it on the biometric residence permit (BRP).

Surcharge payers can use their BRP to evidence their status as part of the eligibility checks carried out by the NHS. The Home Office shares data with the NHS in England on those who have paid the surcharge, or who are exempt from doing so and are entitled to free NHS care. It also provides checking services for the NHS in other parts of the UK. These services help the NHS establish whether a patient is chargeable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215209/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Gareth Snell (Labour Co-op) [214634] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the consultation on his 19 December 2018 White Paper entitled The UK's future skills-based immigration system will include the two proposed short-term work visas described in chapter 6 of that paper; and when that consultation will (a) begin and (b) conclude.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published its White Paper "The UK's future skills-based immigration system" (Cm 9722) on 19 December 2018. The Home Office is launching a 12-month engagement process to enable businesses and other

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214634/>

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: Applications

Keith Vaz (Labour) [215088] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of people living in the UK under visitor visas who have been required to travel overseas to process their applications for (a) family visas, (b) work visas and (c) permanent leave to remain in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017 and (d) 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A visitor is a person who is coming to the UK, usually for up to six months, for a temporary purpose, for example as a tourist, to visit friends or family or to carry out a business activity.

Visit visas are not granted for the purpose of living in the UK or making the UK their home through frequent and successive visits, therefore the information requested is not available

Individuals in the UK as visitors may extend their visit whilst in the UK, as long as the total stay does not exceed 6 months.

Applications to switch from visit to spouse or child settlement visa applications need to be made from overseas. Information on the number of in country extensions for main applicants previously in the visitor category is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, extensions table expc_01, latest edition at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215088/>

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Eddie Hughes (Conservative) [214615] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Minister of Religion visas have been granted (a) within and (b) outside of the three week timescale target time in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The published quarterly transparency data does not separate the sub-categories within the wider Tier 2 route. We have therefore provided the published data for all Tier 2 subcategories which includes General, Intra Company Transfers, Minister of Religion and Sportspeople.

Link to the latest published data:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214615/>

Musicians: Immigration

David Simpson (DUP) [213307] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what discussions has he had with music promoters on the ability to bring musicians from (a) EU and (b) other countries to the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Margot James: While the government is clear that free movement will end when we leave the UK, we are aware that continued access to international talent to work and tour in the UK is a key concern for the music industry.

As part of our wider preparations for EU Exit, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is working closely with the music industry to understand potential impacts and opportunities of EU Exit for the sector. The Department will continue to build on this engagement.

The government takes into account the needs of the whole of the UK, including the music industry, when setting migration policy. The new system will be rolled out once we have left the EU and after the implementation period ends in 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213307/>

Performing Arts: EU Countries

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [216207] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans he has in place for UK (a) musicians, (b) dancers, (c) comedians and (d) other creative workers to (i) tour and (ii) undertake (A) performances, (B) shoots and (C) other short-term projects in EU countries in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March 2019; whether (1) those people and activities will be covered by the proposals on visa-free travel to EU countries after exit day, (2) UK passport holders will be considered third party nationals by countries within the Schengen area and need to apply for visas and work permits under that country's immigration system for non-EEA citizens or (3) another system will apply; and if his Department will provide guidance for UK citizens on working in the EU at <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-eu-exit>

Reply from Robin Walker: Delivering the deal negotiated with the EU remains the Government's top priority.

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the EU have said that UK nationals will be considered third country nationals by countries in the Schengen area after 29 March 2019.

The EU has confirmed that UK nationals would not need a visa when travelling to the Schengen area for short stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This will be reciprocated by the UK for EU citizens. The commitment to visa-free travel only applies to tourists and short-term business travellers. Extra conditions may be required for travel for the purposes of work and for certain business activities. Musicians, comedians and other UK creative workers will need to check individual EU member state immigration rules for more information regarding visits for work. The FCO provides travel advice to UK nationals travelling abroad on gov.uk, and this will include information on travelling to countries in the Schengen area in the event of a no deal. We have published advice on the steps that UK nationals may need to take to prepare for our exit from the EU, which can be found at gov.uk/euexit. The Government will publish any necessary updates on gov.uk in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-01/216207/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Overseas Students

Catherine West (Labour) [214058] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral contribution of 28 January 2019, Official Report,

column 504, whether it is his policy that there will be no immigration limits on the number of international students.

Catherine West (Labour) [214059] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to undertake a review of his Department's policy on the inclusion of international students within the net migration target.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no limit to the number of international students who can come to study in the UK, and as the White Paper 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' makes clear, there will continue to be no limit on the number of international students who can study here in the future.

The independent Office for National Statistics, who follow best international practice, produce the migration statistics and the Government does not seek to influence this. The Migration Advisory Committee recommended that international students should not be removed from the net migration statistics and the Government has accepted this recommendation.

The MAC also stated that continued discussion of students in the net migration target may be contributing to any perception that the UK is not welcoming to international students. In any event, being included in the net migration target does not act to students' detriment as there is no limit on the number of international students who can come to study in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214058/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214059/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-28/debates/321FEFF1-26E7-4194-91BD-BC530B5AE57E/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-7138C70E-94E1-4175-A89E-71BB036069CF](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-28/debates/321FEFF1-26E7-4194-91BD-BC530B5AE57E/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-7138C70E-94E1-4175-A89E-71BB036069CF)

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [187057] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of staff hours it will take to process applications for settled status by non-UK EU citizens living in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme will make it easy for EU citizens to get the status they need. They will only need to complete three key steps - prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions. We will have circa 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post before the end of the year to process applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-01/187057/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [189673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's announcement of 25 October 2018, New fund to support vulnerable EU citizens apply for settled status, whether that grant funding will be available to law firms.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The invitation to tender documents will describe any constraints on what the funding may be utilised for in order to ensure the grant funding is delivered for intended outcomes and any restrictions on which

organisations may apply.

The grant scheme will enable organisations across the UK to apply for funding to support vulnerable EU citizens. Data modelling and sector engagement have been used to gauge potential geographical coverage and associated volumes that might be supported.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-09/189673/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-to-support-vulnerable-eu-citizens-apply-for-settled-status>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hugh Gaffney (Labour) [214071] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has for the introduction of an appeal process to the EU Settled Status scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: If the Withdrawal Agreement is agreed the Government will implement that agreement, including appeal rights, through the Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214071/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Ian Lavery (Labour) [214090] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when EU citizens living in the UK who have paid the £65 settled status fee will receive their refund.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January, there will be no fee for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme when we roll out the scheme in full by 30 March. Anyone who has applied during the pilot phase, or who does so, will have their fee reimbursed. The Home Office will set out further details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214090/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0F8F8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Andy Slaughter (Labour) [213988] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what legal aid will be available for (a) applications and (b) appeals in relation to the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: For the majority of cases, the application and review process in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme will be straightforward. However, the Government recognises that not every case will be straightforward and, as with all cases outside the scope of legal aid, exceptional funding may be available where the requisite criteria are met.

It is worth noting that the Home Office have introduced an employer toolkit which equips employers with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/213988/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

The Employer Toolkit referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/775350/EU-settlement-scheme-introduction-to-the-employer-toolkit.pdf

Immigration: Computer Software

Jo Stevens (Labour) [214579] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which versions of the Android operating system are compatible with the Government's Application for applying for Settled Status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The application process is short and user-friendly, and it will be accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app – which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card – runs on the Android 6.0 (Marshmallow) operating system and above.

Applicants who do not have access to devices with a compatible operating system can, if they wish, use a family member or friend's compatible Android device to access the app, and complete the rest of the process on their own device.

Additionally, we currently have 13 locations where applicants can have their ID document scanned, if they choose to do so. Once the scheme is fully open, by 30 March 2019, there will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214579/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [216274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the EU Exit: ID Document Check app does not work on a desktop or laptop computer.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme is a streamlined and user-friendly service which is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using an internet browser.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app – which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card – requires access to the chip in the applicant's identity document in order to verify their identity remotely. The app uses Near Field Communication (NFC) to facilitate a secure connection between the app and the chip in the applicant's Identity Document. NFC functionality is now available in the vast majority of modern smartphone devices due to the popularity of contactless payments which utilises the same core technology. NFC is a rare feature for tablets and not available on the majority of laptops and desktops.

During this test phase, applicants need to prove their identity by using the 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app, currently only available only on Android phones. The rest of their application can be completed on any computer or mobile device. This is an entirely voluntary test phase and once the system is fully open by 30 March, the app will be optional. There will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216274/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [216347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Settled Status App requests applicants to provide proof of residence for six months for the year 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so.

The scheme opened on a trial basis at the end of August and the second phase of live testing ended on 21 December. In light of the positive progress, we commenced the wider public test of the scheme on 21 January.

The beta test phases have provided us with a useful opportunity to prove various elements of the scheme functionality and processes, and we will continue to improve the system before the scheme fully opens by 30 March. The issue you mentioned has been fixed as part of this process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216347/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Chris Stephens (SNP) [216279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department has issued to people applying under EU Settled Status Scheme who have resided in the UK for more than five years but would only qualify as EU national for less than five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The requirements for continuous residence under the EU Settlement Scheme are set out in Appendix EU of the immigration rules and in published caseworker guidance available on gov.uk at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216279/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Martyn Day (SNP) [214608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to the EU settlement scheme (a) in total and (b) on each date on which it has been open to applications.

Martyn Day (SNP) [214609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to the EU settlement scheme by (a) nationality and (b) sex.

Martyn Day (SNP) [214610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU settlement scheme have resulted in the applicant (a) obtaining settled status, (b) obtaining pre-settled status and (c) being rejected for settled and pre-settled status (i) in total and (ii) by (A) nationality and (B) sex.

Martyn Day (SNP) [214611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average waiting time is and (b) longest waiting time has been for a person applying to the EU settlement scheme and hearing the outcome of that application.

Martyn Day (SNP) [214612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU settlement scheme are awaiting an outcome.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy

and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. They will only need to complete three key steps - prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions.

The EU Settlement Scheme opened on a trial basis at the end of August and the second phase of live testing ended on 21 December. In light of the positive progress, we commenced the wider public implementation of the scheme on 21 January. This will allow us to further test and develop the scheme, which will be fully open by 30 March.

Over the two private beta test phases, over 30,000 applications have been received and the majority of those individuals have already been successfully processed through the scheme and granted status under it. A smaller proportion of cases were held pending further evidence of residence to be submitted from the applicant. Caseworkers are working directly with applicants on these cases.

We have published two separate reports on the both private beta phases and we have committed to provide further details in due course of the planned phased implementation of the scheme. We will continue to update Parliament as part of that process. Please see the private beta reports here:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214608/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214609/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214610/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214611/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214612/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [214580] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest waiting time has been for a decision to be made on an application for Settled Status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Over the two private beta test phases, over 30,000 applications have been received and the majority of those individuals have already been successfully processed through the scheme and granted status under it. A smaller proportion of cases were held pending further evidence of residence to be submitted from the applicant. Caseworkers are working directly with applicants on these cases.

We have published two separate reports on the both private beta phases and we have committed to provide further details in due course of the planned phased implementation of the scheme. We will continue to update Parliament as part of that process. Please see the private beta reports here:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-testing-phase-2-report>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214580/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [216369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who has responsibility for assisting EU citizens with reduced capacity complete their applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [216370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities to help them assist vulnerable EU citizens complete their applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants. That is why we are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, Local Authorities and other experts to identify user needs and provide the needed support.

Since Spring 2018, Local Authorities and Devolved Administration officials have attended regular discussion forums with the Home Office. From Summer 2018, we started a series of regular teleconferences to LAs; 190 have participated so far with participants highlighting the usefulness of information and guidance provided.

The Home Office is committed to supporting vulnerable EU citizens to obtain UK immigration status and we will continue to engage with representative groups to ensure the needs of vulnerable citizens are taken into account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216369/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216370/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Chris Stephens (SNP) [216280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department has issued to people applying for EU Settled Status who are not computer literate.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants. There will be a broad range of support in place. These include offering assisted digital support for those who cannot access or are not confident with technology, and the Settlement Resolution Centre which will be able to assist with questions relating to the application process.

We currently have 13 locations where applicants can have their ID document scanned, if they choose to do so. Once the scheme is fully open, by 30 March 2019, there will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

The Home Office is committed to supporting EU citizens to obtain UK immigration status and we will continue to engage with representative groups to ensure that their needs are taken into account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216280/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department plans to take to directly contact elderly citizens to inform them that they must make online Biometric applications for settled status.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that (a) elderly people and (b) disabled people are able to apply for settled status if they do not have access to a computer or smartphone.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he will ensure that elderly people residing in the UK without UK citizenship are provided with information on the need to apply for settled status.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements his Department has made to ensure that elderly people required to apply for settled status who cannot use a computer and do not live near a Home Office centre can make an application.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what arrangements his Department has made to support elderly people who do not possess (a) a biometric passport, (b) a biometric driving licence or (c) another form of biometric identification to make an application for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants. That is why we are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make sure we reach everyone.

Since November 2017, we have held monthly meetings with representatives of EU citizens on the design and development of the scheme and communications plans. We have been working closely with these groups to identify the needs of potentially vulnerable applicants including the disabled, elderly and isolated. There will be a broad range of support in place; for those who need non-specialist support there is the assisted digital service for technological support, and the Settlement Resolution Centre which will be able to assist with questions relating to the application process. When the scheme fully opens by 30 March, there will be further routes available to have identity documents checked. This includes posting passports or ID cards to the Home Office to be checked and returned, and there will be over 50 locations all over the country where applicants can have their document scanned.

The Home Office is committed to supporting vulnerable EU citizens to obtain UK immigration status and we will continue to engage with representative groups to ensure the needs of vulnerable citizens are taken into account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213250/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213252/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213253/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213254/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213255/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of the funding for advertising the settled status scheme was spent on online advertising in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All EU Settlement Scheme advertising since March 2018 has been digital, using online channels. (This was a campaign from March 2018 to July 2018).

A broader range of channels will be used for advertising from March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213251/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [213256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions the Government has had with his EU27 countries on whether they will directly contact their citizens residing in the UK to encourage them to apply for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I have met many ambassadors from EU Member States to discuss citizens' rights and the EU Settlement Scheme, and requested they share information about the Scheme with their citizens in the UK and encourage them to apply.

Home Office officials also hold monthly meetings with representatives of the EU27 about the EU Settlement Scheme to discuss the design and development of the Scheme. The meetings have included discussions about communications, and materials which EU27 consulates and embassies might find useful to help inform their citizens.

Home Office officials have also taken part in many events hosted by EU27 consulates and embassies aimed at informing their citizens about the Scheme and sources of information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213256/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

John Grogan (Labour) [213222] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Irish citizens born in Northern Ireland will meet the criteria for the EU Settlement Scheme should they choose to apply.

Caroline Nokes: Irish citizens resident in the UK who do not hold British citizenship will be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if they choose. However, they do not need to do so as under the reciprocal Common Travel Area arrangements with Ireland, Irish citizens have a status in the UK separate from EU free movement rights that allows them to live, work, study and access benefits and services without being subject to a requirement to obtain leave to enter or remain in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213222/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [215086] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much it will cost to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain in the event of the UK leaving the EU.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [215087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-EU family members would be allowed to accompany an EU citizen under the planned arrangements for EU citizens migrating to the UK after 29 March 2019 in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: European Temporary Leave to Remain will only apply if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. It will enable EU citizens who arrive in the UK after EU exit to live, work and study in the UK for a temporary period. It will also allow them to be accompanied or joined by their close family members (their spouse, civil partner, partner, and dependent child under 18) who are third country nationals. There will no limit to the number of dependent children who may accompany or join the EU citizen.

Information about the application fee for European Temporary Leave to Remain will be made available in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215086/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215087/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Nic Dakin (Labour) [216282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU nationals that have resided in the UK for (a) under and (b) over 10 years will be able to travel outside of the UK on a two week vacation without that affecting their (i) right to return and (ii) other legal rights to reside in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens' rights to return to, and reside in, the UK after a two week vacation will not be affected if they were lawfully resident before leaving the UK, regardless of how long they have lived in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216282/>

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [214042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the future immigration system will allow temporary short-term workers on a 12-month visa from EU member states to access (a) primary care and to register with a GP, (b) NHS secondary care services; and whether those workers will be obliged to pay the health surcharge; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Migrants coming to the UK for more than six months (other than, currently, EEA migrants) are required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge which gives them access to the full range of NHS services, with the exception of assisted conception services. We are considering whether these arrangements should apply to those coming under the proposed transitional temporary work route and will want to engage with businesses and employers on this point. The Department of Health and Social Care is currently undertaking negotiations on the future of reciprocal healthcare agreements with EU member states following the UK's exit from the EU.

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [203382] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions will be available to dual EU-UK nationals to ensure that they are able to sponsor eligible family members through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, an EU citizen who naturalises as a British citizen while also retaining their nationality of origin and having previously relied on their free movement rights in the UK will be able to sponsor eligible family members under the EU Settlement Scheme. The relevant provisions are set out in Appendix EU to the Immigration Rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203382/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: France

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money has been paid from the public purse to authorities in France in relation to the Sandhurst Treaty 2018; and on what dates those payments were made.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215156] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much the Government has committed to pay to the Government of France under the Sandhurst Treaty 2018; and on what dates the Government plans to make those payments.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many take charge requests have been made by France under the Sandhurst Treaty 2018.

UK-France Migration Committee

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on how many occasions the UK-France Migration Committee established under Article 9 of the Sandhurst Treaty 2018 has met; on what dates and in which locations that committee met; and if he will place the minutes of those meetings and other documents relating to the committee in the Library.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK Government committed €50 million in order to implement a range of agreed actions under the terms of the 2018 Sandhurst Treaty. Payments from this package have been made across the course of the 18/19 financial year as and when required by specific projects. The agreed programme of work is designed to improve security at the shared border in Northern France, reduce illegal migration flows towards northern French ports and support France in returning migrants with no legal right to be in Europe. We are forecasting to spend the full package allocated to this work.

Within this package, £3.6 million was specifically allocated to funding the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK. The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. The Government has committed to publishing regular updates on the number of requests processed under the Dublin III Regulation. The latest figures will be published on 28th February 2019 as part of the wider quarterly release of Migration Statistics.

Migration cooperation between the UK and France, including implementation of the Sandhurst Treaty is overseen by the senior official UK-France Migration Committee, which generally meets alternately in Paris and London on a bi-monthly basis. The minutes of those meetings are confidential and to disclose them would risk injuring relations with an important foreign ally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215155/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215156/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215157/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215158/>

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

Stephen Gethins (SNP) [214587] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent diplomatic steps his Department has taken to protect (a) asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and (b) their families in their country of origin from reprisals by the Government of that country.

Reply from Mark Field: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not responsible for protecting asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. This work is led by the Home Office. The UK does not have a duty of care to protect the families of those asylum seekers and refugees, where they live abroad. We engage regularly with a broad range of countries on human rights issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214587/>

Asylum: Crime

Jo Stevens (Labour) [216348] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to prevent attacks on refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Any refugees or asylum seekers in the UK who are subjected to attack are encouraged to report such attacks to the police.

Any criminal offences that are motivated by hostility towards a person's race, ethnicity or nationality are hate crimes.

The 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan – refreshed in 2018 – includes a range of commitments aimed at preventing all forms of hate crime, including funding of projects designed to challenge prejudice.

The Government is also supporting the police online reporting website True Vision, and for victims who wish to report to a third party there are a number available including Stop Hate UK, Tell Mama, Community Security Trust and Galop.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216348/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

[UK Government s Plan to Tackle Hate Crime 2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

The refresh of the Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at <http://www.report-it.org.uk/home>

Asylum: Lanark and Hamilton East

Angela Crawley (SNP) [214102] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases his Department has identified as complex in Lanark and Hamilton East constituency in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data relating to the number of asylum cases identified as complex (non-straightforward) in Lanark and Hamilton East constituency in the last 12 months

Furthermore, whilst we can provide data on the current addresses of asylum claimants, data on the place of residence and whether or not their case is identified as non-straightforward can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

However, data on the number of non-straightforward cases awaiting an initial asylum decision can be found in tabs labelled ASY_10 and ASY_11 in the Asylum Transparency Data contained in the link below:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214102/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [213431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing an independent guardian or advocate to all unaccompanied children as a means of (a) assisting them with disclosures of modern slavery and (b) preventing them from being exploited or going missing.

Catherine West (Labour) [213432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his policies of the (a) ECPAT UK and Missing People's Still in Harm's Way report which found that one quarter of child trafficking victims and 15 per cent of unaccompanied children went missing from care in 2017 and (b) recommendation in that report on providing independent guardianship for all unaccompanied children.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to rolling independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) out nationally. Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs, is being considered in the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act, led by Frank Field MP, Maria Miller MP, and Baroness Butler-Sloss. The aim of the review is to identify where the act is working well, what can be improved in the implementation of the Act and whether specific areas of the legislation need to be strengthened.

The Government will carefully consider any recommendations about ICTAs which come out of the Review ahead of national rollout.

Unaccompanied children are looked after by the relevant local authority and are entitled to the same services as any other looked after child. Under these arrangements, unaccompanied children will have a professional social worker and an independent reviewing officer to oversee their care arrangements.

In addition, all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England are referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Advice Project and they are also entitled to legal assistance in pursuing their asylum claim. The Government believes that these arrangements ensure unaccompanied children are provided with the independent support and advice that they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213431/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213432/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ecpat.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=96016be0-cc60-48e0-ab9c-635b742f5b7f>

Asylum: Children

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [215196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that all trafficked and unaccompanied children have an independent legal guardian.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In local authorities where the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate (ICTA) service has been rolled out, all children that are potential victims of trafficking are eligible for support.

The ICTA service was rolled out in three early adopter sites in Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Wales in January 2017 with an additional £2m invested to expand the ICTA provision into West Midlands, East Midlands and Croydon. This will mean the service will be available in one third of all local authorities by April 2019.

Unaccompanied children are looked after by the relevant local authority and are entitled to the same services as any other looked after child. Under these arrangements, unaccompanied children will have a professional social worker and an independent reviewing officer to oversee their care arrangements. All unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England are referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Panel and they are also entitled to legal assistance in pursuing their asylum claim. The Government believes that these arrangements ensure unaccompanied children are provided with the independent support and advice that they need.

Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which makes provisions for ICTAs, is being considered in the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field, Baroness Butler-Sloss and Maria Miller. The Government will carefully consider any recommendations for the national rollout of ICTAs which come out of the review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215196/>

Asylum: Slavery

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [215249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2019 to Question 211929, what steps his Department is taking to contact people affected who will have received a final stage National Referral Mechanism conclusive grounds decision and whose support will have ended.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Government is making every effort to pay back everyone affected by the contract changes in March 2018. We recognise that some individuals will have left government funded services and integrated into communities in the UK and overseas and so may be harder for government to contact than others that are still in support services.

On 24 January 2019, personalised letters were sent out to all those we identified as being affected and eligible for repayments. For those still in support, the letters detailed how much and how they will be paid. For those who have left support, the letters explained how to apply for these payments.

If an individual believes they are eligible but did not receive a letter, they can complete an application form on gov.uk. There is no closing date for when people

can apply for back payments if they think they are eligible. Further information is available on gov.uk

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-subsistence-rates-back-payment-victims-of-modern-slavery>).

We are working with stakeholders to raise awareness of the gov.uk page and the letters that were sent out to those identified.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215249/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211929/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [216148] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to (a) ensure that social workers are adequately trained to respond to cases of trafficked children that subsequently go missing and (b) improve the recording and reporting practices by local authorities on trafficked children.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: On 1 November 2017, the government published revised and expanded statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, which sets out the training and awareness requirements for all those involved in the care of these vulnerable children. This guidance is available to social workers along with the statutory guidance on children who go missing from care, and practice guidance on children who may have been trafficked. Local authorities are best placed to then ensure that social workers receive the training they need to meet the needs of children locally.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a duty to local authorities to refer all child victims of trafficking or modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK's system for identify and supporting victims. A referral into this system enables accurate recording and reporting by the Home Office on a quarterly basis. As part of NRM reform the government is conducting a review of how first responders should be trained. This will include understanding how to support all first responders in making these referrals which will support improved recording and reporting.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216148/>

The following six questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Kent

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of suspected migrant crossings by boat to Kent in (a) October, (b) November, (c) December and (d) January 2019.

Charlie Elphicke (conservative) [215150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many suspected migrants attempting to enter Kent by small boat were intercepted in (a) October, (b) November 2018 (c) December 2018 and (d) January 2019.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215151] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many attempts by persons who were suspected illegal migrants to enter Kent by small boat were intercepted by the French authorities in (a) October 2018, (b)

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215152] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many attempts by persons who were suspected illegal migrants to enter Kent by small boat were intercepted by the UK authorities in (a) October 2018, (b) November 2018, (c) December 2018 and (d) January 2019.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215153] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many attempts by persons who were suspected illegal migrants to enter Kent by small boat were successful in (a) October 2018, (b) November 2018, (c) December 2018 and (d) January 2019.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [215154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the claimed nationality is of the suspected illegal migrants that entered Kent by small boat in each of (a) October 2018, (b) November 2018, (c) December 2018 and (d) January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: During 2018, over 500 migrants - mostly Iranian - attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels. 80% of them attempted this in the last three months of the year. Around 40% of the attempts last year were either disrupted by French law enforcement or returned to France via French agencies. Border Force and operational partners are carrying out intelligence-led activity on a number of fronts to prevent migrants from entering the UK via clandestine and illegal means. We are also working very closely with our colleagues in France to prevent migrants from making these dangerous crossings.

Through these efforts, we reduced the number of individuals attempting the crossing from around 250 in December to 90 in January.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215149/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215150/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215151/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215152/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215153/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215154/>

Undocumented Migrants: Prosecutions

Keith Vaz (Labour) [213219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been prosecuted in relation to illegal immigration in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017 and (d) 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on defendants proceeded against for offences under Immigration Acts 1971 to 2009 in England and Wales is available in table pr_01 within the detention tables in the latest release of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018', available from the Home Office website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758249/detention-sep-2018-tables.ods

Information for 2018 will be available in August 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213219/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [212648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential effect of the proposed Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) 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: The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill will end free movement and provide the legal framework for the future border and immigration system. The measures in the Bill are primarily focused on preparing the UK to exit the EU.

We continue to look at issues relating to detention, including the numbers of people who are detained prior to removal and the size of the estate, to ensure we 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 these policies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-25/212648/>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146067] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department carried out any equality impact assessments prior to setting his Department's targets for the removal of illegal immigrants; and if he will publish any such assessments.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department does not hold any Equality Impact Assessments related to the setting of targets for removals of illegal migrants. This is because the Equalities Act 2010 does not require public authorities to carry out such assessments.

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06591/SN06591.pdf>

Ministers have not set specific targets for the enforced removal of illegal immigrants in 2018 – 19. The Department has published information on the performance management regime for enforced removals. This is set out in Sir Philip Rutnam's letters of 14 May and 25 June 2018 to Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee:

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180514-Home-Office-Permanent-Secretary-Immigration-Enforcement.pdf> (14 May)

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180625-Permanent-Secretary-Immigration%20Enforcement.pdf> (25 June)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146067/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Deportation: English Language

Stephen Timms (Labour) [213885] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) been removed and (b) have left the UK as a result of English language tests administered by ETS in each of the last 12 months.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [216918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2019 to Question 213885, Deportation: English Language, how many (a) refusal, (b) curtailment and (c) removal decisions have been made in respect of ETS-linked cases to date.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [216919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2019 to Question 213885, Deportation: English Language, how many (a) removals and (b) departures there have been in respect of ETS-linked cases to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions in response to the abuse of secure English language testing. A link to the most recent available data is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

The table in SELT_02 is the closest match to the information requested

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/213885/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/216918/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/216919/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/213885/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Caribbean

Catherine West (Labour) [216389] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the decision was taken to restart deportation charter flights to the Caribbean; and if he will make a statement.

Catherine West (Labour) [216391] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many residents of Hornsey & Wood Green constituency have been scheduled for deportation on the restarted deportation charter flights to the Caribbean.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not provide operational details of the returns charter flight programme.

To confirm or deny details of those who are scheduled on the returns charter flight to Jamaica would amount to processing of their personal data and would be unlawful under data protection legislation.

Those scheduled to be on the flight are Foreign National Offenders without a right to remain in the UK. The UK Borders Act 2007 requires that the Home Secretary issues a deportation order for anyone who is a foreign national offender. That is a legal requirement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216389/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216391/>

Deportation: Charter Flights

Caroline Lucas (Green) [217012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will (a) stay the imminent deportation charter flight to Jamaica and (b) cancel all such flights pending the completion of an independent review of (i) the effect on black and minority ethnic communities of his Department's immigration policy and practice and (ii) how that policy and practice might be reformed to improve fairness and efficiency.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I can confirm that the returns charter flight to Jamaica took place on 6 February 2019. I do not plan to cancel any other returns charter flights.

Returns charter flight operations remain an important means by which we return illegal migrants and Foreign National Offenders without a right to remain in the UK. They would otherwise have to be returned alongside fare paying passengers on scheduled flights.

The UK Borders Act 2007 requires that the Home Secretary issues a deportation order for anyone who is a foreign national offender sentenced to a period of 12 months or more imprisonment. That is a legal requirement. Most liberal democracies around the world have similar laws in place. British offenders in foreign states are often deported back to the UK, including from Jamaica, which has in the past deported British nationals who have committed serious offences back to the UK.

Everyone deported on the returns charter flight to Jamaica was a foreign national offender. All of them have been convicted of serious crimes, such as rape, murder, firearms offences and drug trafficking. This law applies universally to all foreign national offenders.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217012/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Deportation: Jamaica

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to reports that five foreign nationals who were due to be deported to Jamaica have since been reprieved.

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

My Lords, it would not be appropriate to comment on individual cases, particularly those subject to ongoing legal proceedings. It may be helpful to know that a number of factors impact on a person's planned removal from the UK. This does not mean that the original decision to remove the individual was incorrect. If barriers to their removal are resolved and they are not granted a form of leave, the person remains subject to deportation as required under the UK Borders Act 2007.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister. Yet, lawyers representing some of those due to be deported say that the reprieve is permanent. Yesterday, I asked the Minister how the Government could be sure that those they intended to deport as foreign national offenders were actually foreign nationals, bearing in mind the mistakes that had been made with the Windrush generation. The Minister said that she had been assured that all those being deported were foreign nationals. Yesterday, in the other place, the Home Secretary said that the law required him to deport foreign nationals convicted of serious offences and that if he did not deport them, he would be breaking the law. As I say, overnight it has been reported that five of those due to be deported are no longer going to be deported. Can the Minister explain: did the Government mislead the House, or has the Home Secretary broken the law?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I have not misled the House, nor has the Home Secretary broken the law. I thought I had made clear in my original Answer that the original decision to remove an individual is not incorrect, but there may be factors that need to be resolved, such as fresh asylum claims and other reasons why a fresh appeal might be lodged, which might mean that someone is not deported but might ultimately be deported. Therefore, neither is true.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, while I accept that deportation must remain an option for the Government, some of the decisions to deport people that I have seen reported look extremely harsh. How can we be confident that the Home Office is being just in its application of the deportation policy generally?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have to say that it was under a Labour Government that the UK Borders Act 2007 was brought in. A deportation order must be made in respect of a foreign criminal sentenced to a period of more than 12 months, and we will not resile from that—I am sure the noble Lord would not expect us to do so. This was what my right honourable friend the Home Secretary was referring to when he made his comment yesterday about not wanting to break the law.

Lord Rooker (Labour): My Lords, the implication of what the Minister said, a bit like what the Home Secretary said yesterday, is, “Oh, this is a law that Labour brought in. We are being forced to do it, because Labour did it”. If you do not agree with that law, why have you not got rid of it? Why use petty party points on a serious issue like this?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, there was a very good example of petty party points in the other place yesterday. It is not that the Home Secretary does not agree with the law; the Home Secretary is abiding by the law.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, within the last few days I met a man who has lived in the UK for 41 years, since the age of four. He was due to be deported to Jamaica, but then his deportation was cancelled, which is obviously good news. Does the Minister think this is a just way for this country to conduct its deportation policies? How many more people are in the pipeline to be deported day after day, and which we are only hearing about in the newspapers? Somehow the Government are in denial that they have any responsibility to take care of these people.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the noble Baroness will understand that I will not comment on an individual case. She is absolutely right that deportations go on all the time. Although this flight has come to the fore in the media this week, it is nothing unusual. I cannot comment on whether this deportation has been cancelled or not.

Lord Faulkener of Worcester (Labour): Does the Minister agree that one of the weaknesses in the Government’s position over the Windrush scandal was that it demonstrated evidence of a “Gotcha!” culture in the immigration service and in the Home Office? Achieving a deportation was chalked up as a victory by the staff concerned. Can she reassure us that that culture has now gone and that some of the worst aspects of the Windrush problem will not recur?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is right to make this point. When the Home Secretary first took up his post, he made it a central priority that that culture of a hostile environment—which had grown up over the years, if we are to be honest—would be far more attuned towards talking about a compliant environment and that the culture in the Home Office would be changed to be far more humane. That was demonstrated in the aftermath of what happened to the Windrush people. I hope this continues towards those who genuinely have a right to be in this country.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, while it is welcome that the new Home Secretary has made this a central plank, there is continuing concern as these cases continue to bubble up. Can the Minister assure us that the Home Secretary is having a series of meetings not just with the high commissioners of these various Caribbean islands, but also with community representatives? May I remind my noble friend that a considerable proportion of these people, particularly of this generation, are involved in faith communities? Maybe reaching out to these leaders would help resolve some of these cases more swiftly.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend makes a good point. The Home Secretary has been in touch with the high commissioners. Of course, local—particularly Caribbean—communities are best placed to know where people who need help can seek it and where cases can be dealt with. We have reached out to all these Caribbean communities and beyond in order to encourage people

to come forward to get the help which they might need to resolve their status.

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, there is a real need to have cultural understanding of individuals who are being investigated. There needs to be public confidence that people are being treated fairly. How many BAME people are Home Office officials working on these cases to give the public the confidence they need?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am afraid that I cannot answer the noble Baroness's exact question, but I will find out what proportion of BAME staff work in the Home Office and let her know that.

Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate (Non-affiliated): My Lords, just for clarification, will the Minister explain that, when a foreign national is convicted of a criminal offence and receives a sentence of, I think, more than two years, they then qualify for deportation? It is probably a matter for the judge to make a recommendation and then the Home Office takes over to see whether there are any mitigating circumstances. Is that correct?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is actually a sentence of more than 12 months, but certainly Article 8 considerations are taken into consideration before someone is deported. The provision exists under the UK Borders Act to deport people who have been sentenced to 12 months' or more imprisonment.

Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall (Labour): My Lords, I wonder whether the noble Baroness will return to her previous answer on the subject of the hostile environment, which I think she described as having grown up over many years. My recollection—on which I am sure she will correct me if I am wrong—is that in fact the policy may have had a number of aspects, but it was named and prosecuted under the previous Government, and the Home Secretary at the time was the current Prime Minister.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We could have a debate about this, but I understand that the phrase was actually coined by Alan Johnson, but I shall not start on party-political exchanges because, the phrase having been coined, the culture of hostility grew up over a number of years. We could argue the semantics of it, but it grew up over a number of years. Compliance on immigration matters is far more important than a hostile culture within the Home Office or anywhere else.

Lord Teverson (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it is certainly my experience from business that it takes several years to change a culture in a company. Can the Minister explain to the House what is practically been done—I do not want to use the phrase re-education—in terms of training? Are programmes under way, or is this just Ministers telling people not to enforce the policy any longer?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will know from his experience that the person who sets the culture in an organisation is the leadership, and I think the Home Secretary made it abundantly clear when he came into post that the hostile environment was no longer to be, but the noble Lord is right: it takes time for these things to change.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-06/debates/2DB65AE4-2022-4B54-B648-D9B89898EA27/DeportationJamaica>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Sleeping Rough: Immigrants

Lord Stoddart of Swindon (Independent Labour) [HL12997] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of immigration on the increase in rough sleeping in England since 2013.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government has not made an assessment of the impact of immigration on the number of people sleeping rough. However, national street counts and intelligence driven estimates of people sleeping rough are conducted every year in autumn and these take account of an

individual's nationality. The most recent data (for England) is from the autumn 2018 annual street count and estimate, which returned a total figure of 4,677 rough sleepers in England - showing a fall in numbers for the first time in 8 years - 1,048 of these self-reported as non-UK nationals.

To tackle this issue, we are making £5 million of funding available to help local areas support non-UK national rough sleepers off the streets. This funding will complement the projects which we have already funded through the £100 million Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) for local authorities to work with non-UK nationals who sleep rough. Further CMF funding allocations will be announced shortly.

This Government is committed to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping. No one should ever have to sleep rough. That is why last summer we published the cross-government Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out an ambitious £100 million package to help people who sleep rough now, but also puts in place the structures that will end rough sleeping once and for all. The Government has now committed over £1.2 billion to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the spending review period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-21/HL12997/>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL13022] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will publish guidance that sets out the additional help that is available through the Department for Work and Pensions' vulnerable person's pathway for refugees who accept assistance through the Post Grant Appointment Service.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: Refugees who accept assistance through the Post Grant Appointment Service will be assessed to ascertain whether they have complex needs and so require additional support to ensure that their customer journey is equal in quality and outcome to that of someone who does not have complex needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13022/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL13023] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation in the report by the British Red Cross Still an Ordeal: the move on period for refugees, published on 6 December 2018, to allow refugees who do not have a bank account to use the existing asylum support payment (ASPEN) card for their first Universal Credit payment.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: Those who do not have a bank account, including refugees, can have their Universal Credit award paid through a Post Office Card Account, or alternatively payments can be made into someone else's bank account. Payments can also be made using the Government Payment Exception Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13023/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/resources/move-on-period-report.pdf>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL13024] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to publish an evaluation of the impact of the Post Grant Appointment Service on the transition of refugees to Universal Credit; and if so, when.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: We have conducted an informal evaluation of the Post Grant Appointment Service, which includes looking at refugees claiming Universal Credit as well as legacy benefits and intend to write to the Work and Pensions Select Committee detailing our findings. Our response to the Committee will be published.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13024/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Housing

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL12973] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review their policy of requiring those refugees who have been granted leave to remain to find their own accommodation within 28 days.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL12974] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to support those refugees who have been granted leave to remain and are expected to find their own accommodation within 28 days; and in particular, what specific support they provide to such refugees in regard to (1) practical difficulties, (2) unsuitability of available accommodation, and (3) transitional and language challenges.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been working on a number of initiatives to ensure that refugees are able to access benefits and housing promptly once any support they been provided by the Home Office ends 28 days after the grant of their status.

Refugees are eligible to receive assistance with housing from their local authority, in the same way as British Citizens or other permanent residents of the UK, and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable. Asylum accommodation providers are under a contractual duty to refer these cases to the appropriate local authority.

The Home Office also provides a Biometric Residence Permit and National Insurance Number to enable newly recognised refugees to make an application for benefits and arranges an appointment with their nearest Job Centre if they confirm that they want assistance to make the application.

Refugees are entitled to access English language tuition if they are unemployed and looking for work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-21/HL12973/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-21/HL12974/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL13008] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 January (HL12624) that "the Home Office does not electronically record the grounds on which an individual claims asylum" and that they cannot identify the origins of persecuted minorities, whether they intend to (1) review that policy, and (2) collect such data in the future.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL13009] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 January (HL12624) that "the Home Office does not electronically record the grounds on which an individual

claims asylum”, whether they record that information by other means; if so, whether data are available for those that attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels in 2018; and if so, whether they will publish any such data.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The basis of a person’s asylum claim is recorded on their individual Home Office file, but not in a way that can be easily aggregated, so we cannot provide figures on how many claims are brought by particular persecuted minorities, or the nature of claims brought by those attempting to travel to the UK in small vessels.

As such, this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost because it would require a manual search through individual records.

We keep all policy under regular review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13008/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13009/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Foster Care: Asylum

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL13172] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in assessing offers to act as foster parents for incoming unaccompanied children; and what steps are being taken to link Community Sponsorship groups with approved fosterers of unaccompanied children.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government recognises the vital role of foster carers in looking after unaccompanied children. Any prospective foster carer must be assessed and approved by an Ofsted registered fostering agency or local authority. The government’s Controlling Migration Fund has provided over £3.7 million funding to 15 local authorities who asked for funding to recruit and train foster carers for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The Department for Education has also commissioned training places for 1000 foster carers of unaccompanied children.

As the community sponsorship scheme is designed to enable local community groups to directly welcome and support resettled refugee families and not unaccompanied children under the Vulnerable Persons and Children’s Resettlement schemes, no link to approved foster carers of unaccompanied children has been made by central government.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-28/HL13172/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stephen Timms (Labour) (2061) Visa refusals based on TOEIC English language test allegations – That this House notes the important contribution of international students to UK higher education; welcomes the presence of those who have entrusted their education to the UK; is concerned about the 35,870 students whose visas have been refused, revoked or curtailed due to allegations of cheating in the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) on the basis of doubtful evidence provided by the US testing firm ETS; urges the Government to allow those who have been accused of cheating on TOEIC and who remain in the UK to sit a new secure test; calls on the Government to reinstate

the previous visa status of those who pass, granting them time to complete their studies and to clear their names of the allegations levelled at them; urges the Government to provide clarity on the 22,000 students whose tests ETS claimed were “questionable”; and further urges the Government to halt the detention and removal of students affected.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52558/visa-refusals-based-on-toeic-english-language-test-allegations>

Press Releases

Opportunity for charities to become authorised advisors to EU citizens applying to settle in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunity-for-charities-to-become-authorised-advisors-to-eu-citizens-applying-to-settle-in-the-uk>

UK must stop disproportionate use of security laws after conviction of Stansted 15, say UN rights experts

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24141&LangID=E>

Stansted Airport case

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/stansted-airport-case>

New Publications

Letter from Home Secretary Sajid Javid to Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee: Windrush update

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777303/HASC_Windrush_update_Nov_and_Dec.pdf

House of Lords Library briefing: Immigration Procedures

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LBP-2019-0014/LBP-2019-0014.pdf>

Criminal casework Deportation of family members of foreign national offenders

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776119/Deportation-of-family-members-of-FNOs-v12.0.pdf

News

Performers are ‘collateral damage’ as visa issues hamper Edinburgh festivals

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/performers-are-collateral-damage-as-visa-issues-hamper-edinburgh-festivals-1-4866930>

Westminster ‘ignores’ EU students’ plight in Scotland

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/westminster-ignores-eu-students-plight-in-scotland-2pn53kw95>

Ministers urged to relax immigration rules on family reunions

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/04/ministers-urged-to-relax-immigration-rules-on-family-reunions>

UK citizenship tests: Gangs help cheating candidates pass

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-47047719>

Government toughens rules for people seeking citizenship with new English language requirements

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-citizenship-tests-english-language-requirements-government-toughens-rules-a8771501.html>

Home Office still using NHS patient data for immigration enforcement despite suggesting it would end practice

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-nhs-data-sharing-immigration-enforcement-a8761396.html>

Windrush scandal: Sajid Javid apologises to woman wrongly denied help

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47136125>

Windrush scandal: Eligible victim wrongly denied help

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47119070>

Sajid Javid apologises to Willow Sims, teaching assistant facing deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/javid-apologises-to-willow-sims-teacher-teaching-assistant-facing-deportation-windrush-dtptfv99>

Windrush: 3,400 stay in UK

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17417454.windrush-3400-stay-in-uk/>

Home Office Windrush fund helped only one person by end of 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/07/home-office-windrush-fund-only-helped-one-person-by-end-of-2018>

Home Office accused of ‘aggravating’ Windrush suffering after admitting only one person helped by hardship scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-home-office-hardship-scheme-sajid-javid-yvette-cooper-a8768511.html>

Government accused of ‘pandering to far right’ over Windrush deaths

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-dog-whistle-right-wing-windrush-david-lammy-sajid-javid-charter-flight-jamaica-a8764326.html>

Windrush row over criminal deportation flight to Jamaica

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47123841>

Home secretary urged to apologise for falsely claiming Jamaica deportees were all guilty of ‘very serious crimes’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sajid-javid-jamaica-deportation-crimes-home-office-hostile-environment-immigration-a8767986.html>

Sajid Javid’s deportation flight shows the hostile environment in action

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/06/sajid-javid-windrush-deportation-criminal-jamaica>

Deportation flights: the return of the hostile environment

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/05/the-guardian-view-on-deportation-flights-the-return-of-the-hostile-environment>

UK deportation flight greeted with suspicion in Jamaica

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/07/uk-deportation-flight-greeted-with-suspicion-in-jamaica>

The Jamaica deportation charter flight is an outrage – but so are many others

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/windrush-jamaica-charter-flight-immigration-home-office-commonwealth-sajid-javid-a8766101.html>

Criminals win reprieve on runway

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/criminals-win-reprieve-on-runway-pm93scg6j>

Man facing deportation to Jamaica set to win last-gasp reprieve

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/04/man-facing-deportation-to-jamaica-set-to-win-last-gasp-reprieve>

Two escape immediate deportation to Jamaica after legal challenge

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/05/deportation-flights-ministers-pandering-to-far-right-says-lammy>

At least seven men due to be deported on a charter flight to Jamaica granted last-minute reprieve

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jamaica-deportation-flight-home-office-legal-challenge-hostile-environment-a8765401.html>

Dungavel immigration detention centre hit by crimewave as incidents treble

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/dungavel-immigration-detention-centre-crimewave-13945410>

MPs and peers call for end to indefinite detention

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/07/mps-peers-committee-end-indefinite-detention-report-human-rights>

Home Office should no longer have power to detain people, MPs say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-detention-home-office-mistakes-independence-joint-human-rights-committee-a8766296.html>

Court of Session to rule on lawfulness of Serco's proposed evictions

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3402_court_of_session_to_rule_on_lawfulness_of_serco_s_proposed_evictions

Brexit: UK jobs 'attracting less interest from EU workers'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47002618>

Refugee evictions 'would cause a crisis on streets'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugee-evictions-would-cause-a-crisis-on-streets-l93lqptt2>

Just 6% of vulnerable detainees released from UK immigration centres

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/09/vulnerable-detainees-released-from-uk-immigration-centres>

Families and lawyers call for end to deportations of long-term UK residents

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/09/families-and-lawyers-call-for-end-to-deportations-of-long-term-uk-residents>

Stansted 15: no jail for activists convicted of terror-related offences

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2019/feb/06/stansted-15-rights-campaigners-urge-judge-to-show-leniency>

Think you are British? Not if the Home Office says you're not

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/10/think-you-are-british-not-if-home-office-says-you-are-not>

Jobless Romanian wins child benefit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jobless-romanian-wins-child-benefit-vn7bn325x>

European military spouses may fail settlement test

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/european-military-spouses-may-fail-settlement-test-bflq2s6p5>

Commonwealth soldiers don't earn enough to bring families with them

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/commonwealth-soldiers-don-t-earn-enough-to-bring-families-with-them-mflwllmqy>

Anti-FGM campaigner denied NHS cancer care

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/08/anti-fgm-campaigner-denied-nhs-cancer-care>

We call anti-migrant hostility 'right-wing extremism' on the streets, but what about when it comes from the state?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/home-office-immigration-deportation-jamaica-windrush-scandal-hostile-environment-a8767596.html>

Grandmother whose entire family is settled in UK told to leave country

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-grandmother-uk-deport-spouse-visa-sri-lanka-susita-balasubramiam-a8770646.html>

Brexit voices: Why we chose to make Scotland home

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17418194.brexit-voices-why-we-chose-to-make-scotland-home/>

Brexit voices: How Brexit could stop me from adopting a child

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17418192.brexit-voices-how-brexit-could-stop-me-from-adopting-a-child/>

Tales of Jewish immigrants who made Scotland their home

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/education/tales-of-jewish-immigrants-who-made-scotland-their-home-1-4869667>

Take part in this year's Refugee Festival Scotland!

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3400_take_part_in_this_years_refugee_festival_scotland

TOP

Community Relations

Press Release

James Brokenshire unveils next steps to building integrated communities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/james-brokenshire-unveils-next-steps-to-building-integrated-communities>

New Publications

Integrated Communities Action Plan (England)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777622/Integrated_Communities_Action_Plan.pdf

Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper Summary of consultation responses and Government response

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf

News

Sajid Javid says people questioned his decision to marry his wife because 'she's white'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/08/sajid-javid-says-people-questioned-decision-marry-white-wife/>

We're too slow to quash un-British practices

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-re-too-slow-to-quash-un-british-practices-vpmdh6p5q>

For Surrey's Koreans, simmering tensions reflect the north-south divide at home

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/09/notebook-new-malden-korea-north-south-tension>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Race Disparity Audit

The Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Chris Skidmore)

[HCWS1297] I am pleased to make this statement jointly with my right hon. Friend, David Lidington MP, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office. At the launch of the Race Disparity Audit in October 2017, the Government committed to “explain or change” the ethnic disparities on the audit’s website *Ethnicity facts and figures*. Since October 2017 the Government have taken action in education, employment, health, criminal justice, including most recently in October 2018, taking action to see employers adopting fair employment practices which ensure all staff, particularly those from an ethnic minority background, do as well as they are able in terms of recruitment and progression in the workforce.

The audit's website *Ethnicity facts and figures* has been continually updated and extended to allow the public to see if ethnic disparities are improving or not across over 160 important areas of public life. This has included the publication of data on undergraduate degree results and entrants at different higher education providers with high, medium and low entry tariffs.

On Friday, the Government announced action to tackle disparities in access to, and successful participation in, higher education for ethnic minority students; and disparities in recruitment and progression for ethnic minority academics. Friday's announcement aims to tackle challenges that we know are particularly acute for ethnic minority students in higher education, such as their levels of non-continuation, the degree class they achieve compared to their peers, and their progression on to good quality employment.

In addition to the steps already taken to address this, including establishing the Office for Students and legislating for greater transparency and scrutiny through the Higher Education and Research Act, these actions will include:

Asking the Office for Students to ensure higher education providers demonstrate how they are tackling differences in access and successful participation for students from ethnic minorities—the Office for Students will be expected to hold providers to account, in particular through access and participation plans, which set out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for under-represented groups, to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. The Office for Students will be expected to use its new powers to challenge providers failing to make progress.

Asking league table compilers to consider performance on tackling inequalities between ethnic groups in university rankings—working with a wide range of experts, stakeholders and league table compilers.

Encouraging higher education providers to eliminate ethnic disparities in their workforce—using tools such as the race at work charter and race equality charter.

Supporting student choice through better information, advice and guidance—by reforming the Unistats website using evidence from research with students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

Building the evidence base on 'what works' for improving ethnic minority access and successful participation—encouraging the winning bidder of the newly established Evidence and Impact Exchange to make improving the evidence around addressing ethnic disparities a priority.

These actions will be supported by the Office for Students in its role as the regulator, Advance HE which will launch a review of its race equality charter, and UKRI which will signal its support for reducing ethnic disparities in research and innovation funding.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-04/debates/19020414000008/RaceDisparityAudit>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Employment: Ethnic Groups

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [213155] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the report of 18 January 2018 by the Centre for Social Investigation entitled Are employers in Britain discriminating against ethnic minorities.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: The Centre for Social Investigation's findings on potential discrimination at the written application stage of recruitment are concerning. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against employees and people seeking work because of their race.

The Government's Ethnicity Facts and Figures website and Business in the Community's 2018 Race at Work Survey highlight that people from ethnic minorities

still encounter disparities in recruitment and progression. In October 2018 the Prime Minister announced a package of measures to make the workplace fairer for people from ethnic minorities, including a Race at Work Charter and a consultation on mandatory ethnicity pay reporting. The consultation closed on 11 January 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213155/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

The Ethnicity Facts and Figures website can be read at

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-series-of-measures-to-tackle-barriers-facing-ethnic-minorities-in-the-workplace>

The Race at Work Charter can be read at

<https://race.bitc.org.uk/issues/racecharter>

Department for International Trade: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [211851] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many Sikhs are employed in his Department; and whether they are recorded as (a) an ethnic or (b) a religious group.

Reply from George Hollingbery: There are 24 members of staff in the Department for International Trade (including UK Export Finance (UKEF)) who have self-reported as Sikh (as at 31 December 2018) on departmental systems. The Department records Sikhism as a religion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-23/211851/>

News

When the kissing stopped: why did Britain turn its back on black TV?

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/feb/07/britain-bfi-forgotten-black-tv-drama->

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime Campaign

S5W-21133 James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which organisations it consulted when drafting the anti-hate crime campaign, Dear Haters.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: On 26 September we launched a hate crime campaigning partnership with Police Scotland which aimed to encourage witnesses to report. The campaign was developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including:

Police Scotland

COPFS

COSLA

Education Scotland
BEMIS
CEMVO
Glasgow City Council
Central Scotland Regional Equality Council
Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights
Community Safety Glasgow
Interfaith Scotland
Edinburgh Interfaith Association
SCoJeC
Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society
Equality Network
LGBT Youth Scotland
Mental Health Foundation
People First (Scotland)
I Am Me Project
Inclusion Scotland
YouthLink Scotland

The campaign ran until 1 November and was Scotland-wide.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21133>

Information about the campaign referred to above can be read at
<https://onescotland.org/campaigns/hate-crime-campaign/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15695:Angus MacDonald (SNP): World Hijab Day – That the Parliament recognises that 1 February marks World Hijab Day, which aims to tackle Islamophobia and misconceptions about Islam; understands that Scotland’s ambassadors to this movement work toward a more cohesive and comprehensive society; congratulates the voluntary community group, Al Masaar, which promotes positive community relations, on its hard work and effort in raising awareness in the Falkirk area; notes that it held its third annual hijab stall at the Howgate Shopping Centre on 26 January 2019, which was an informal platform for members of the public to learn more about the hijab, including that it is not a tool of oppression and that it is more than just a head covering, where modesty and humility should be applied to actions and behaviours to men and women; believes that these principles are the basis of all religion and are common ground to celebrate Scotland's diverse and rich multicultural communities, and welcomes such opportunities to help society move away from discrimination and racism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15695>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into the Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/96153.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Caste-based discrimination

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [909077] Will the Minister confirm that victims of caste-based discrimination will have full legal protection under the existing law, including if their legal grounds for such discrimination do not meet the *Tirkey v. Chandok* principles?

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: The hon. Gentleman will know that we have consulted on this and are acting on the basis of our legal advice and the enormous amount of responses to that consultation. We have confidence that those protections are there for individuals, but we also want to ensure that people understand those protections really well. We will therefore issue guidance and consult groups on its production.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-07/debates/D9A118C0-8CC9-45D5-9A42-9F7D5315F512/TopicalQuestions#contribution-F7255C59-B5B8-4B15-8DFD-8868A250DF99>

The judgement in the case referred to above can be read at

<http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/Tirkey%20v%20Chandok%20Judgment%2017.09.15.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Sports: Racial Discrimination

David Simpson (DUP) [213305] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism in sport.

Mims Davies: There is absolutely no place for racism in sport or anywhere in society. Sport clubs and fans must continue to embrace diversity and tackle racism whenever they encounter it. As I announced in the House on 4 February 2019, I will be bringing together football authorities and other organisations with an interest in the coming weeks, to agree what action must be taken to stamp out all forms of discrimination at sports events.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213305/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-04/debates/048CD63B-3BA7-4708-8EE1-8362DEF0783B/SportInTheUK#contribution-26AE977E-0016-4E37-8A39-448BCF6B2971>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Football: Antisemitism

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [214080] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking with football clubs to help identify perpetrators of antisemitic hate crimes on match days.

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [214081] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with representatives of football clubs on

the use of antisemitic chants at football matches.

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [214082] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with (a) the police and (b) other relevant authorities on the monitoring of antisemitism at football matches.

Reply from Mims Davies: All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable, and government fully supports a zero tolerance approach by clubs, the football authorities and the police to dealing with anti-Semitic or other types of abuse when it occurs in our stadiums or sporting fields.

There are examples of good work happening at clubs like Chelsea to tackle the issue of anti-Semitism, and by Kick It Out and the Community Security Trust, with government's support, to monitor anti-Semitic hate crimes in the UK and highlight the concern. Together, those bodies released an anti-Semitism guide for match day stewards to help improve awareness of anti-Semitic behaviour and offering information on the current laws around it, as well as advice on what action to take. As part of the Hate Crime Action Plan (2016) and its refresh (2018), the government have also been supporting Show Racism the Red Card to educate young people and adults on the dangers of holding discriminatory/prejudice sentiments and prevent the development of harmful opinions into hate crimes.

The government is however alive to a rise in the numbers of reported incidents of discrimination at all levels of the sport, and I will be inviting together the FA, English Football League, Premier League, players' representatives, and groups such as Stonewall and Kick It Out to discuss what more football can do to stamp out racist, homophobic and anti-semitic abuse at matches.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214080/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214081/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214082/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

The refresh of the Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (Labour) (2065) Community Security Trust incident figures – That this House notes the 2018 anti-Semitic incidents report by the Community Security Trust (CST); further notes that the stated record of 1,652 anti-Semitic incidents represents a 16 per cent rise on the previous year and for the third year running the highest annual total of anti-Semitic incidents that CST has ever logged; is concerned that there is now a pattern of consistently high incident figures for attacks against Jewish people; is further concerned that these figures suggest an enduring situation in which people with anti-Semitic attitudes appear to be more confident in expressing their views; resolves to continue to support CST's important work and that of other key organisations; and further resolves to ensure the safety of the Jewish community and to continue to work across public and civil life to

eradicate and challenge anti-Semitic incidents wherever they occur.
<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52563/community-security-trust-incident-figures>

Press Releases

'How can we build community cohesion when hate crime is on the rise?'
<http://www.appghatecrime.org/publications/>

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2018
<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2019/02/07/antisemitic-incidents-report-2018>

New Publications

How Do We Build Community Cohesion When Hate Crime Is On The Rise?
<http://www.appghatecrime.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/APPG%20on%20Hate%20Crime%20Report%20Hate%20Crime%20and%20Community%20Cohesion.pdf>

Antisemitic Incident Report 2018
https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/c/7/IR_2018_Web.pdf

European Commission fact sheet: Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online: Questions and answers on the fourth evaluation
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-19-806_en.pdf

Discrimination, artificial intelligence, and algorithmic decision-making
<https://rm.coe.int/discrimination-artificial-intelligence-and-algorithmic-decision-making/1680925d73>

Staying Power The career experiences and strategies of UK Black female professors
http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/10075/staying-power/pdf/ucu_rollock_february_2019.pdf

News

Nadine Dorries accused of thinking 'brown women look the same'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-47120879>

Labour MPs urge more action against anti-Semitism
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47123328>

Labour MPs criticise party leaders over response to antisemitism: 'Platitudinous, dismissive and far from acceptable'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-party-antisemitism-mps-jeremy-corbyn-jewish-abuse-a8763171.html>

Party chief Jennie Formby adds to MPs' anger on Labour antisemitism
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-05/news/party-chief-jennie-formby-adds-to-mps-anger-on-labour-antisemitism-zv7k88jlh>

New Labour anti-Semitism row as branch suspended

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17420503.new-labour-anti-semitism-row-as-branch-suspended/>

Warning for Labour AM Jenny Rathbone over anti-Semitism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-47161381>

I am sick of being tainted by the stain of Labour antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-must-show-it-will-act-on-antisemitism-to-progress-r7tf5f8bf>

Conservative Cllr Mike Franklin suspended over Islamophobic retweets

<https://tellmamauk.org/conservative-cllr-mike-franklin-suspended-over-islamophobic-retweets/>

Young Blackpool Conservative expelled for racist tweets

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-47134818>

Fight against police racism 'has stagnated since Stephen Lawrence murder', MPs told

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-racism-stephen-lawrence-murder-mother-doreen-macpherson-committee-a8764456.html>

Hate crime victims left suicidal and afraid to leave home because of attacks 'unleashed after Brexit referendum'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-hate-crime-muslims-jews-rising-uk-suicide-attacks-report-extremism-a8763816.html>

Anti-Semitic hate incidents in the UK 'up 16% in 2018'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47147568>

Anti-Semitism on the rise across the UK, but incidents remain scarce in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/anti-semitism-on-the-rise-across-the-uk-but-incidents-remain-scarce-in-scotland-1-4869793>

Anti-Semitic hate incidents soar to record high after 16% rise

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/07/anti-semitic-hate-incidents-soar-record-high-16-rise/>

Labour anti-semitic rows help push hate incidents against Jewish community to high

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/07/labour-anti-semitic-rows-help-push-hate-incidents-against-jewish/>

Labour antisemitism debate may have driven increase in anti-Jewish incidents in UK, report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/labour-antisemitism-jewish-hate-incidents-cst-jeremy-corbyn-israel-crime-abuse-a8766551.html>

Antisemitic hate crime breaks record for third year in a row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitic-hate-crime-breaks-record-for-third-year-in-a-row-rkmlnq2zv>

The findings of a new report on antisemitic crimes should shock us into action

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-antisemitism-corbyn-party-members-report-cst-a8767421.html>

Antisemitism never went away – it's just that now MPs like Luciana Berger are standing up to it

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/antisemitism-labour-luciana-berger-jewish-jeremy-corbyn-a8769946.html>

Black female professors must deal with bullying to win promotion, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/feb/04/black-female-professors-report>

Talented women of colour are blocked' – why are there so few black female professors?

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/feb/05/talented-women-of-colour-are-blocked-why-are-there-so-few-black-female-professors>

Sports minister Mims Davies calls for summit to tackle increase in abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/feb/04/sports-minister-mims-davies-summit-abuse-at-football>

West Ham hand evidence to police over alleged abuse of Mohamed Salah

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/feb/07/west-ham-hand-evidence-to-police-over-alleged-abuse-of-mohamed-salah>

FA urged to shut grounds over racism by anti-discrimination campaigner

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fa-urged-to-shut-grounds-over-racism-by-anti-discrimination-campaigner-z5v7fk0hs>

Islamophobia: The Muslim family who 'ran away' after abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-46990722>

Judges reject bias claim against Jewish housing association

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/06/judges-reject-bias-claim-jewish-housing-association-aqudas-israel>

Housing association can rent only to Orthodox Jews

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/housing-association-can-rent-only-to-orthodox-jews-3zvmql03>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Scotland's historic role in slavery

S5W-21241 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of recent research and projects highlighting Scotland's previously underplayed part in the slave trade, what steps can be taken to recognise Scotland's historic role in slavery.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: Scotland has many different and complex aspects to its history and it is important that these are acknowledged. In order to support this process, in March 2007 a book was published entitled "Scotland and the Slave Trade" to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/172082/0048155.pdf>.

The most important way to learn lessons from that past is by showing leadership in tackling racism today. In December 2017 we published the [Race Equality Action](#)

[Plan](#) outlining more than 120 actions we will take over the course of this Parliament to secure better outcomes for minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

One of the commitments we have given in the Race Equality Action Plan is to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent with an innovative programme of events. This provides us with an opportunity to work with stakeholders and consider how we can mark Scotland's role in the slave trade in a way that will have the greatest impact for their communities today.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21241>

Education concerning slavery

S5W-21243 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to improving the general level of education and cultural liaison concerning slavery.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: History is an area of the curriculum which provides opportunities to study a wide range of people and historical events, and diversity is important within that, ensuring that pupils develop a nuanced, balanced, informed understanding of past people and events and their impact on how our society has developed.

The "People, past events and societies" element of the history curriculum provide flexibility to teachers to choose the topics to meet the needs of children and young people. While it is the responsibility of individual local authorities and schools to decide how to deliver the curriculum, based on local needs and circumstances, teachers will use their professional judgement to carefully select which historical periods and topics to study.

Within both the history and modern studies areas of the curriculum pupils learn about the similarities and differences between current and past values and attitudes, as well as historical reasons behind inequality in our society.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21243>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Sharia Law Independent Review

Giles Watling (Conservative) [214073] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to publish its response to the recommendations of the independent review into the application of sharia law in England and Wales.

Victoria Atkins: On 1 February 2018 the Government published the independent Sharia review and confirmed it would not be taking forward the recommendation to regulate Sharia Councils in a Written Ministerial Statement.

The Government's commitments in response to the review can be found in the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper, published on 14 March 2018 and available on gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214073/>

The 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_CPGF_Report_into_Sharia_Law_in_the_UK_WEB.pdf

Meat: Exports

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [215076] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, whether promoting the export of meat from non-stunned animals (a) requires a specific derogation and (b) must clearly state that it is only for consumption by religious communities.

David Rutley: Domestic legislation enables religious slaughter to be undertaken here by Muslims and Jews for the consumption by Muslims and Jews. Neither European nor domestic legislation requires specific additional approvals to be granted, or derogations to be secured, in respect of the export of meat from non-stunned animals.

There are no domestic or European Regulations that require the labelling of Halal or Kosher meat, but where any information of this nature is provided, it must be accurate and must not be misleading to the consumer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215076/>

Forced Marriage: Repatriation

Priti Patel (Conservative) [215575] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in forced marriages his Department has helped to repatriate in each of the last ten years broken down by country; and how many of those people have (a) signed emergency loan agreements, (b) been given financial assistance without needing to sign emergency loan agreements.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: Repatriation data was not recorded separately prior to 2016. Estimates for 2016 and 2017 (latest year for which estimates are available) are as follows:

2016: Forced Marriage Unit assisted 57 repatriations: 21 from Pakistan; 8 from Bangladesh; remaining 26 from 16 different countries. 17 of those who were assisted signed an emergency loan agreement.

2017: Forced Marriage Unit assisted 29 repatriations: 12 from Pakistan; 12 from Somalia; remaining 5 from 4 different countries. 9 of those who were assisted signed an emergency loan agreement.

There are different routes available for funding repatriation costs which differ according to age and individual circumstances, including whether a Forced Marriage Protection Order has been made. The Forced Marriage Unit do not keep a record of the different funding routes used by victims. Prior to 9 January 2019, emergency loans were offered to some adults to assist with repatriation costs as a last resort. As from 9 January, no victim of forced marriage helped to return to the UK by the Forced Marriage Unit will be asked to take out a loan for their repatriation costs. The Government has agreed to ensure that those victims who have outstanding loans will have no further cost fall to them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-01/215575/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Crime Prevention

Sarah Champion (Labour) [211203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of taking preventative action in relation to an at-risk individual being subjected to FGM.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is

child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls

The Government has significantly strengthened the law in 2015 to improve protection for victims and those at risk, and to break down the barriers to prosecution.

Work to tackle FGM is an integral part of our cross-Government Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, published in March 2016. The Strategy commits to continue to challenge deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls across all communities. As part of our commitment to tackling all forms of VAWG, we have pledged £100 million in funding, including the £17 million VAWG transformation fund. This year, we will refresh the strategy to ensure that we are doing all that we can to tackle crimes which disproportionately affect women.

The Home Office does not hold information on the cost of taking preventative action to those at risk of FGM. However, we are committed to continuing our work to protect and support victims and those at risk of this terrible crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-22/211203/>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL13299] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Manzoor on 29 January (HL12848), how many successful prosecutions there have been in the UK for female genital mutilation; and how many prosecutions are pending.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: Up until 31 December 2017, there have been two prosecutions in England and Wales (one in 2014, and one in 2016) but no convictions for the principal offence of female genital mutilation under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. Data for 2018 will be published in May 2019.

Whilst not yet recorded in the official statistics, a jury convicted the first defendant of an FGM offence on 1 February 2019.

Information around pending prosecutions is held by the Crown Prosecution Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-30/HL13299/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-15/HL12848/>

Press Releases

UK Government delivers further devolution to Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-delivers-further-devolution-to-scotland>

Updated: Female genital mutilation: resource pack

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

News

Shoppers to be told how their food died in labelling plan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/shoppers-to-be-told-how-their-food-died-in-labelling-plan-z73rgtgsp>

MP Christopher Chope under fire for blocking anti-FGM bill

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47173445>

Anti-FGM bill being blocked by MP Chope 'appalling'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47189073>

Conservative MP Christopher Chope blocks bill to protect girls from FGM

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/christopher-chope-blocks-fgm-prevention-bill-tory-mp-conservative-a8770026.html>

Christopher Chope accuses ministers who condemned him for blocking FGM crackdown of 'virtue-signalling'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/08/christopher-chope-accuses-ministers-condemned-blocking-fgm-crackdown/>

TOP

Other News

FGM victims treated in Scottish city hospitals

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47184027>

FGM 'increasingly performed on UK babies'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47076043>

Scale of female genital mutilation treatment for city health boards revealed

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17421781.scale-of-female-genital-mutilation-treatment-for-city-health-boards-revealed/>

Female genital mutilation victims treated over 230 times by Scots medics

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/female-genital-mutilation-victims-treated-13977364>

Scottish NHS hospitals treat 230 cases of female genital mutilation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scottish-nhs-hospitals-treat-230-cases-of-female-genital-mutilation-55snlzl03>

TOP

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11930&i=107837#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament

Border Control Bill

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

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

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

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

**** closing date extended**

'Adults at Risk' in immigration detention (closing date 25 February 2019)

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

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/>

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 28 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

12 February 2019 in Stirling (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y72rahnb>

Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation meetings to provide information about the proposals, and enable individuals and communities to give their views. For information and to book a place, please click on the relevant link above.

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

AoP Live

14 February 2019 in Stirling (9.30-3.00)

Action on Prejudice and YouthLink Scotland event for youth workers and other practitioners working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aop-live-tickets-54518526380>

**** this week!**

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

**** Who Am I? Who Do You Think I Am?**

2 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.00-5.00)

NCBI participatory unconscious bias and diversity workshop to gain an understanding of experiences of unconscious bias and difference and the meanings attached to them. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/who-am-i-who-do-you-think-i-am/>

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>

Lunchtime Equality Workshop

6 March 2019 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.30)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to find out about the latest equality statistics for Fife. For information contact Elric@centreforequalities.org.uk / 01592 645310.

Working with Interpreters

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/jt93f0g> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOP



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



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



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

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