



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

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

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

The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 18 February 2019.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15841 Keith Brown (SNP): Clackmannanshire Welcomes Syrian Refugees' Business to the High Street – That the Parliament welcomes the opening on Alloa High Street of Alloa Barbers, which it understands is the first new business venture in the Forth Valley by refugees from Syria; congratulates the two owners, Mohamad Alwan and Neehad Othman, on their hard work, dedication and commitment to seeing their business being established since arriving in Scotland a year and a half ago; recognises the challenges that they have overcome, such as learning English and settling into a new culture and country, all with the support of Clackmannanshire Council and the wider community; understands that they have received an overwhelmingly positive response from Clackmannanshire residents, and wishes them, their business and their families

continued success in the future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15841>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration Procedures

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-14/debates/5B2E1218-8EBF-4C81-AB17-5ABB0A2174EC/ImmigrationProcedures>

UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee

EU Settlement Scheme inquiry: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/eu-settlement-scheme/oral/96447.html>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Social Security Benefits: Windrush Generation

Helen Hayes (Labour): What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on supporting people of the Windrush generation to access social security benefits. [909124]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Amber Rudd): I take a particular interest in ensuring that the Department for Work and Pensions liaises closely with the Home Office to make sure that the Windrush generation are properly supported. So far we have helped over 400 customers to swiftly confirm their status and access benefits.

Helen Hayes: ... I have been writing to the Secretary of State for many months on behalf of my constituent, who was the first Windrush citizen to return to the UK in May last year. She has since been denied access to attendance allowance because she was not in the country during the assessment period. The only reason she was not in the country at the time was the illegal action of the British Government. I have been told by the DWP that she must wait until the Windrush compensation scheme is published and include within her claim compensation for benefits she is due now. That is absurd and unacceptable. Why is the Secretary of State, who presided over the Windrush scandal as Home Secretary, continuing to compound and extend the injustice that Windrush citizens are suffering by failing to put in place the support they need to access all the benefits to which they are entitled?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I would like to reassure the hon. Lady that I have looked into this case, and I do take seriously, as she and the House would expect, the issue of ensuring that the Windrush generation are supported correctly by the DWP. We have reinstated the claimant's pension credit and have awarded arrears to date. With regard to the attendance allowance, I will be writing to the hon. Lady, and officials are working to resolve the matter. I will provide the letter as a matter of urgency.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-11/debates/617803B9-23FD-4FB3-93DE-D003AA2CF5D3/SocialSecurityBenefitsWindrushGeneration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Migration: Education

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [217645] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department provides guidance to the writers of educational textbooks on how to present the issue of migration in their books.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government does not provide writers of educational textbooks with guidance on the presentation of migration.

Textbook writers can find information on the content of programmes of study for each national curriculum subject, GCSE subject content, and A Level subject content at the following links:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/gcse-subject-content.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/gce-as-and-a-level-subject-content.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217645/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Applications

Harriet Harman (Labour) [218142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long on average it has taken his Department to determine an application for indefinite leave to remain in each of the last five years.

Harriet Harman (Labour) [218143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to set a minimum response time for the Home Office to determine applications for indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: 1. We do not publish this specific data around average waiting times, the published statistics relating to individuals granted Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom are recorded together as part of published Migration Statistics and can be located via the link:

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

2. There is no minimum time to determine an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain, however each case type is covered by a maximum waiting time if the case is considered straightforward. If a case is not straightforward we contact the customer by a set point within the process, details of these times can be found via the link:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218142/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218143/>

Immigration: Appeals

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [219570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department sets targets for the number of final immigration court appeals brought against rulings allowing (a) asylum seekers and (b) other migrants to stay in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All allowed appeals are considered on their merits. Determinations are only appealed where the Home Office considers there is an error of law and strong grounds that the appeal would be dismissed if the error had not been made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219570/>

Immigration: Appeals

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [219571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the costs to the public purse of each appeal by his Department to the Upper Tribunal against rulings allowing asylum seekers and other migrants to remain in the UK in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The decision to challenge an allowed appeal is taken by the Specialist Appeals Team, a team within UKVI. Determinations are only appealed where the Home Office considers there is an error of law and strong grounds the appeal would be dismissed if the error had not been made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219571/>

Immigrants: Employment

Chris Williamson (Labour) [219401] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals who have the right to work in the UK have no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are a number of forms of leave that can be granted which give the right to work in the UK but with no recourse to public funds. This is underpinned by Part 5A of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

We do not routinely record information centrally on individuals who have the right to work in the UK without recourse to public funds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219401/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [218323] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department uses to define low risk countries for participation in the 12 month short-term work visa proposed in the immigration White Paper published on 19th December 2018, The UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System; and when his Department plans to publish a list of those countries.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218323/>

The White Paper referred to below 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: Clergy and Religious Orders

Eddie Hughes (Conservative) [217629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of (a) current and (b) future visa requirements and processes for Catholic clergy and members of religious orders.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government values the role of faith in public life

and recognises the contributions made by faith groups to our communities in the UK. This is reflected in our existing bespoke visa arrangements for religious workers and Ministers of Religion.

On 19 December 2018, the Government's published its White Paper on the future immigration system. We want to continue to attract those who make valuable contributions to the practicing of faith and to our communities across the UK and will continue to offer arrangements for religious groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217629/>

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: Surcharges

Naz Shah (Labour) [216262] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of visa applicants who have not received an Immigration Surcharge Number as a result of that number being provided to those applicants' legal representatives and not those applicants directly; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not routinely record the information requested. The Immigration Health Surcharge number is sent to the email address that is provided during the payment process. Customers should ensure that they are receiving information about their application from anybody acting on their behalf, but any customer who requires details of their IHS number can request it via UKVI contact channels.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216262/>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Lyn Brown (Labour) [217522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what changes have been made to immigration policy as a result of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary is absolutely determined to learn from and right the wrongs of the past. That is why an independent lessons learned review, led by Wendy Williams, has been set up to establish what went wrong and how to prevent it happening again.

The Independent Adviser aims to publish her findings in a report by spring 2019.

The department will consider the recommendations from the Windrush lessons learned review carefully and take appropriate action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217522/>

Social Security Benefits: Windrush Generation

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [219556] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of denying social security support to people affected by the Windrush scandal on their (a) rent arrears, (b) homelessness, and (c) personal debt.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: DWP provides a fast track service which engages with the Home Office and other Government bodies to help individuals affected, to ensure that they are able to access the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

DWP also has backdating provisions in place, where benefit decisions can be

revised without limit where evidence shows that a previous benefit decision was reached without knowledge of a material fact, or based on incorrect information. The Government is committed to putting in place a compensation scheme for members of the Windrush generation who have suffered loss as a result of difficulties in demonstrating their lawful immigration status and has launched a public consultation. The Home Office will be publishing the formal Government response to the consultation shortly, which will also include more detailed rules and guidance about the scheme, and information about how eligible claimants can apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219556/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [218366] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his department has made of the number of people who will be registered for settled status in the United Kingdom by (a) 29 March 2019, (b) 31 December 2020 and (c) 30 June 2021, in the event of the UK leaving the EU (i) with a withdrawal agreement and (ii) without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The 3.5 million EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK are eligible to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Following two successful private beta test phases, we commenced the wider public roll-out of the scheme on 21 January. The EU Settlement Scheme will be fully open by 30 March 2019 and EU citizens will have until 30 June 2021 to apply, in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

In the event of a no deal, the Prime Minister has already made clear that all EU citizens resident here by 29 March 2019 will be welcome to stay. The deadline for applications will be 31 December 2020 to align with the start of the new UK immigration system.

We want all EU citizens and their family members who are eligible to do so, to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. A targeted communications plan is already underway and once the scheme is fully rolled out by 30 March 2019, a full campaign will ensure we reach as many people as possible, both directly and through third parties such as employers and charities. Additionally, up to £9 million of grant funding will also be made available to enable civil society organisations to mobilise services targeted at vulnerable EU citizens and their families to ensure those that require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218366/>

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: EEA Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [218303] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's guidance entitled European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK, published on 28 January 2019, whether his Department plans to publish guidance for employers and applicants on European Temporary Leave to Remain.

Kate Green (Labour) [218304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's guidance entitled European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK, published on 28 January 2019, whether dependant family members of EEA nationals obtaining three months leave to remain will each be required to make a separate application for leave to remain.

Kate Green (Labour) [218305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's guidance entitled European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK, published on 28 January 2019, what fee his Department plans to charge for an application for European Temporary Right to Remain.

Kate Green (Labour) [218306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's guidance entitled European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK, published on 28 January 2019, whether a (a) skills surcharge and (b) health surcharge will apply to people applying for European Temporary Leave to Remain.

Kate Green (Labour) [218307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's guidance entitled European Temporary Leave to Remain in the UK, published on 28 January 2019, whether people with European Temporary Leave to Remain will be able to apply from within the UK for different categories of visa when their 3-year leave expires; which visa categories people will be eligible to apply for after their European Temporary Leave to Remain expires; and whether time spent in the UK with European Temporary Leave to Remain will count towards the residency requirement for people who go on to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will publish further information about the immigration arrangements for those EEA nationals arriving in the UK after the UK's exit from the EU in the event that there is no deal. This will include guidance on how to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain and updating the published guidance for employers on right to work checks.

Dependant family members of EEA nationals will be required to make separate applications for European Temporary Leave to Remain.

Information about the application fee will be made available in due course. Applications for European Temporary Leave to Remain will not be subject to payment of the Skills Charge. Subject to Parliamentary approval, applicants will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

European Temporary Leave to Remain is permission to stay for 36 months and cannot be extended. Those who wish to stay for longer will need to apply and qualify under the terms of the UK's new skills-based immigration system, which will begin from 1 January 2021. The shape of the future system is the subject of extensive engagement over the next 12 months with a range of stakeholders before final policy decisions are made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218303/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218304/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218305/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218306/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218307/>

The Guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-temporary-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op) [217572] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and

Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2019 to Question 215173, what plans his Department has to work with EU nationals employed by the NHS to ensure that they stay in the UK and feel welcome and encouraged to do so.

Reply from Stephen Hammond We have been clear from the beginning of this process that we want European Union nationals currently working in the National Health Service, to stay after we leave the EU. As part of this, we opened the public testing phase of the EU Settlement Scheme on 21 January 2019. Following a successful private testing phase in December 2018, the scheme is now open to all EU nationals in the United Kingdom.

The Department has undertaken a targeted communications campaign with stakeholders, employers and representative bodies in the health sector to ensure that as many of our EU workforce are aware of the straight forward and user-friendly scheme that allows them to secure their long-term rights to stay and work in the UK after we leave the EU.

Furthermore, to help facilitate as many applications as possible, the Prime Minister announced on 21 January 2019 that, as of 30 March 2019, all applications to the settlement scheme will be free. Additionally, where individuals have applied, or do apply, before that date, and are charged an application fee, then this fee will be refunded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217572/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-31/215173/>

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 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

Damien Moore (Conservative) [217143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support the Government plans to provide to NHS workers applying for EU 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 a streamlined and user-friendly online process which draws on existing government data to minimise any administrative burden on individuals.

We are working with a range of partners to ensure that EU citizens have the information and support they need. This includes partners in the health and social care sector. Staff from this sector were involved in the two private betas phases.

As the Prime Minister announced on 21 January, having listened to concerns from parliamentarians, campaign groups and the public, the Government will not charge an application fee so that there is no financial barrier for any EU citizens and their non-EU family members who wish to stay.

We are committed to supporting EU citizens to obtain UK immigration status and we will continue to engage with representative groups to ensure that user needs are taken into account.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217143/>

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Sandy Martin (Labour) [217661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of 6 February 2019 by the hon. Member for Ipswich, whether the Home Office guidance in respect of the EEA E10 residence card will be altered to allow spouses of British citizens who obtained their E10 card in other EEA countries to benefit from the tenancy of properties in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Article 10 residence cards issued by other EEA member states help to demonstrate a right of entry into the UK for a third country national family member of an EEA citizen, or the family member of a British citizen who has previously been exercising EU Treaty rights in another EEA member state. However, these cards do not provide conclusive evidence that the person has a right to reside in the UK for the purpose of statutory eligibility checks within the UK, including those conducted by landlords and lettings agents. We will review our guidance to landlords and lettings agents to ensure they have clarity on how to establish the status of prospective tenants in these circumstances.

The simplest and most effective way for a non-EEA family member to demonstrate their entitlement to a wide range of services and benefits when they are resident in the UK is to apply for a UK residence card. Once a residence card application is submitted to the Home Office, a landlord or employer can confirm the person's right to rent or work in the UK by using the Home Office Checking Service, whilst the application is pending; confirmation is provided within two working days enabling landlords or employers to comply with statutory checks required by immigration law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217661/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-06/debates/1458C758-EFE8-4106-8840-B294C98FC83E/Engagements#contribution-5A47EEE1-AF48-41F3-8D19-A460B22A7446>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [217431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2019 to Question 210043, with what organisations and agencies other than HMRC, the Department for Work and Pensions and the NHS his Department has shared data; for what purposes; and how many instances of data sharing there have been for each purpose.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office will only collect and process personal data where we have a legal basis to do so and it is necessary and proportionate. The Home Office collects and processes personal data to fulfil its legal and official functions.

The Home Office may share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is a legal basis for doing so. Further detail on this, including the categories of organisations with which we may share data, is set out in the Home Office personal information charter:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/personal-information-charter>

and, for the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System (BICS), including the EU Settlement Scheme, via the BICS privacy information notice:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217431/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-18/210043/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [217647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many fees for settled status applications his Department has processed since 21 January 2019.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [217648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much money his Department has collected in fees for applications for Settled status from (a) adults and (b) children.

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. Everyone who has applied during the pilot phase, or who does so, and has paid a fee will be reimbursed. The Home Office will set out further details shortly. The Home Office will update Parliament on the public pilot phase in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217647/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217648/>

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 announcement referred to above can be read at

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [217649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what circumstances an EU Citizen applying for Settled Status will be required to pay for biometric enrolment.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [217651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of waiving biometric enrolment fees for EU citizens and their family members.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is no Home Office fee to enrol biometrics when applying to the EU Settlement Scheme and there is no requirement for EU citizens to enrol fingerprint biometrics. Where enrolment of fingerprints is required – for example, for those non-EEA citizen family members of EU citizens who do not already hold a biometric residence permit – the standard options for enrolment apply, details are published on gov.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukvis-new-front-end-services-what-you-need-to-know>

As announced by the Prime Minister on 21 January, the application fee for the Settlement Scheme will be removed from 30 March, when the scheme is rolled out in full, and any application fees already paid will be refunded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217649/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217651/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

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: Fees and Charges

Patrick Grady (SNP) [217650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of waiving fees for applications for (a) residence and (b) permanent residence cards.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Article 25(2) of the Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC) permits member states to charge for residence and permanent residence documentation provided that charge does not exceed that imposed on their own nationals for the issuing of similar documents.

The Prime Minister announced on 21 January 2019 that, from 30 March 2019, there will be no fee for applications made under the EU Settlement Scheme. That does not apply to the fees payable for residence or permanent residence documentation issued under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016. The Government has been clear since the 2016 referendum that it is not necessary for EEA nationals to apply for such documents.

Those who hold a valid permanent residence document or have existing indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK are already exempt from paying an application fee under the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217650/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

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

Neil Coyle (Labour) [216276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) average time is and (b) longest time it has taken for a family subject to No Recourse to Public Funds conditions to achieve settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Within the family migration route an individual and their dependants become eligible to apply for settlement after five years. If the requirements of the Immigration Rules for settlement are not met, then leave can be extended for 30 month periods at a time until they are, otherwise they will qualify after ten years. These periods of leave to remain, including leave granted to parents with children in the UK, will be subject to a no recourse to public funds condition, unless to avoid destitution or there are exceptional financial circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216276/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [218764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress his Department has made in reviewing the potential effect of the salary threshold for EU citizens after 29 March 2019 on recruitment in the arts sector.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the event that a deal is reached with the European Union (EU) on withdrawing from the bloc, there will be an implementation period between 29 March 2019 and 31 December 2020 during which nothing will change regarding the ability of EU citizens to come and work in the UK, including those working in the arts sector.

If the UK leaves the EU without agreeing a deal, the arrangements for EU citizens arriving in the UK after 29 March 2019, whether for holidays or for short visits, for work or study, of up to three months, will not look any different for a transitional period until the new skills-based immigration system is implemented in 2021. However, to stay longer than three months, EU citizens newly arrived in this transitional period will need to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain, which, subject to identity and criminality checks, will mean that they can remain here, including to work or study, for a further 36 months.

In either scenario, there will be no minimum salary threshold for those coming here to work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218764/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [219406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EEA nationals and their family members who are granted pre-settled status will have restricted access to healthcare and public funds as defined under paragraph six of the Immigration Rules (a) before and (b) after 31 December 2020 in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [219407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EEA nationals and their family members who are granted settled status will have restricted access to healthcare and public funds as defined under paragraph six of the Immigration Rules (a) before and (b) after 31 December 2020 in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [219408] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EEA nationals and their family members who are granted (a) settled status and (b) pre-settled status will have restricted access to public funds (i) before and (ii) after 31 December 2020 in the event that the UK leaves the EU under the terms of the EU Withdrawal Agreement.

Paul Blomfield (Labour)[219409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EEA nationals and their family members who arrive in the UK after 29 March 2019 will have access to healthcare and public funds as defined under paragraph six of the Immigration Rules in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In both a deal and no deal scenario, EEA nationals and their family members who obtain pre-settled status will have the same access to healthcare and public funds as they do now. Those who obtain settled status will be able to access healthcare and public funds on an equal basis with comparable UK nationals. These entitlements will not change after 31 December 2020 but will be subject to any future domestic policy changes which apply to UK nationals.

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal on 29 March 2019, there will be a transition period before the future skills-based immigration system begins in January 2021. In due course we will set out further information about access to healthcare and public funds for EEA nationals and their family members who arrive

in the UK during this period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219406/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219407/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219408/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219409/>

Universal Credit: EEA Nationals

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [219533] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of universal credit on the financial circumstances of long-term resident EEA Nationals who no longer have worker status.

Reply from Alok Sharma: We have not made such an assessment but we continue to monitor our policies.

Within the 2016 EEA Immigration Regulations and 2013 Universal Credit Regulations, an EEA citizen who is no longer a worker or a self-employed person can retain the status of a worker whilst involuntarily unemployed. EEA citizens who are exercising a qualified right to reside, such as 'retained worker' status are eligible to access Universal Credit. A link to the regulations are below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1052/made>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2013/9780111531938/regulation/9>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219533/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [217463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have downloaded the EU Exit: ID Document Check app.

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 implementation of the scheme on 21 January. The 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app, which is publicly available from the Google Play Store, has had over 100,000 downloads since 15 November when it was made available. Thousands of EU citizens have successfully applied using the 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app since then. The app is free to download, and we do not expect everyone who does so to be a potential applicant.

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. Once the system is fully open, 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/2019-02-06/217463/>

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 three questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Kent

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [216256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what was the total number of attempts by persons who were suspected migrants to enter Kent by small boat in (a) October 2018, (b) November 2018, (c) December 2018 and (d) January 2019.

Undocumented Migrants: Boats

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [217560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants entering the UK illegally in small boats were detected in each year since 2010.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [217561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of migrants entering the UK illegally in small boats in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary delivered a statement to Parliament providing the following figures relating to 2018 arrival.

Over 500 migrants - mostly Iranian - attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels in 2018. 80% of them attempted this in the last three months of the year. Around 40% of the attempts were either disrupted by French law enforcement or returned to France via French agencies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-04/216256/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217560/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217561/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

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

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [217557] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of migrants entering the UK illegally in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office works closely with partners in the UK and overseas to strike people smuggling at source – identifying and dismantling the organised crime groups that facilitate illegal immigration. Additionally, the UK works abroad to reduce factors that may push or force people to attempt such journeys - through creating jobs, tackling modern slavery, providing education and delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters.

In November a new UK-France Coordination and Information Centre opened in Calais to strengthen our joint efforts to tackle all kinds of criminality at the border. Border Force is working alongside Police Aux Frontieres as part of a 24/7 operation to help prevent illegal attempts to cross the shared border and exchange intelligence between UK and French agencies to combat cross-border criminality. Despite our successes in preventing attempts to enter the UK illegally, we are not complacent. We will continue to work closely with our French counterparts to

maintain border security and keep legitimate passengers and trade moving. At juxtaposed controls and ports around the country, Border Force officers use some of the most advanced detection technology available to find and stop migrants attempting to reach the UK illegally.

We have also invested tens of millions of pounds in new infrastructure to enhance border security, with all freight vehicles entering the UK screened for people being smuggled into the UK using a range of techniques, which include using carbon dioxide detectors and motion sensors as well as sniffer dogs to detect clandestine on board lorries.

We have taken steps to address the possibility that there may be a displacement of clandestine migrant activity towards smaller and less frequented ports, as enhanced controls at the juxtaposed ports have become increasingly effective.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217557/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Ports

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [217558] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants entering the UK illegally were detected at port in each year since 2010.

Undocumented Migrants: Dover Port

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [217559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants entering the UK illegally were detected at Port of Dover in each year since 2010.

Undocumented Migrants

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants were detected entering the UK illegally in each year from and including 2010 to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is not Home Office policy to release internal management information in response to Parliamentary Questions. All our transparency data can be found on Gov.UK. Specifically, data on clandestine detection that has been published can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/number-of-clandestines-detected-at-the-juxtaposed-controls-and-at-uk-ports-from-2010-to-2014>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217558/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217559/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218253/>

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey (Labour) [216944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date his Department began the practice of using Zimbabwean embassy officials to interview Zimbabwean failed asylum seekers; what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the safety of those individuals of engaging with the Zimbabwean Embassy; what discussions he has had with the Zimbabwean diaspora on this practice; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the second half of 2018, the Government, with officials from the Embassy of Zimbabwe, started co-operating on redocumenting Zimbabwean nationals without a right to remain in the UK, including Foreign

National Offenders;

Re-documentation interviews with officials from countries of return are a standard part of Home Office process where an interview is required by the receiving country to enable the confirmation of nationality and identity, in order for a travel document to be produced.

In conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Home Office officials routinely meet with the representatives from the Zimbabwe Diaspora Focus Group (ZDFG). The most recent meeting was in October 2018, at which immigration returns to Zimbabwe was discussed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/216944/>

Immigration: Iran

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [219274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Leave to Remain from citizens of Iran were (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful; and how many of those unsuccessful applications were as a result of not being able to prove Christian faith for each year since 2012.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The number of Iranians who have claimed asylum in the UK up to Quarter 3 2018 (year ending Sept 18) and those who have been granted leave (Asylum/HP/ELR/other) can be found at the published Immigration Statistics, Asylum Data Tables Volume 1, table as_01_q:

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

We cannot provide data on the reasons why the asylum claims were made i.e. the Convention reason, as 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 were unsuccessful as a result of not being able to prove Christian faith. As such, this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost, because it would require a manual search through individual records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219274/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Patrick Grady (SNP) [219482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much notice an asylum accommodation provider is required to provide to a resident in advance of attending at that resident's address.

Patrick Grady (SNP)b [219483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures or safeguards are in place in relation to the attendance by an asylum accommodation provider at the property of one of its residents.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Each asylum accommodation service provider is required to provide 5 days notice before inspecting a property.

Accommodation providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate and ensure that safeguards are in place. Service users are fully briefed, in a language they will understand, about what will happen at an inspection and during any maintenance work. They are also provided with a written copy of this information.

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

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503107/>
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219482/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219483/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether direct financial support will be provided to local authorities participating in the asylum dispersal scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office are engaging closely with Local Authority Chief Executives on a continuous basis to assess the costs associated with being a dispersal area. As recently outlined in correspondence between Ministers and Local Authorities, it has been agreed that this joint review will be co-designed and co-produced by Local Authorities and the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217597/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from which local authorities he has received written correspondence since August 2018 indicating that they may withdraw from the asylum dispersal scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has received a number of letters from Local Authorities relating to asylum dispersal and is working closely with a wide range of local authorities to increase the number of areas across the UK that agree to accommodate and support people seeking protection.

We take a coordinated approach to the delivery of the various resettlement and asylum schemes and engage through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments can be made where appropriate. Participation in asylum dispersal is subject to discussion and agreement with individual local authorities and there is no target level of participation - every local authority is encouraged to contribute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217598/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217600] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with which local authorities did his Department's contract compliance team conduct joint inspections of asylum accommodation in 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not routinely publish data on its inspection activity.

Local Authorities are actively engaged in the inspection and monitoring of properties used by asylum seekers and we welcome their input and expertise. In the first instance we expect Providers to develop close working relationships with Local Authorities on property standards and in particular they must comply with local authority licensing and regulation regimes. Where licences are applicable and issued the Local Authority can and do inspect property standards to ensure they comply.

We encourage our Providers to take a proactive role in engaging Local Authorities on property standards and would expect that in the first instance that Providers and local authorities inspect jointly where that is required. This has included joint inspections with over 25 Local Authorities over the last 12 months.

The offer to inspect jointly with UKVI or the accommodation provider is open to all Local Authority areas though we cannot compel them to do so. If Local Authorities feel they do not have sufficient resource to inspect with UKVI, or the accommodation Provider, then the Home Office is committed to using its re-source to inspect areas of concern and feedback our findings.

As part of our Assurance Plan, we have offered a pilot to three Local Authority areas in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. We will evaluate their success and roll out any future programmes to all Local Authorities who wish to take us up on that offer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217600/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217602] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his Department operating the asylum dispersal scheme in each year since 2000.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In recent correspondence with both the Home Secretary and Minister, the Home Office committed to conducting a joint review with Local authorities to ascertain cost and funding. The Home Office is consulting with Local Authorities on this and other subjects, but no estimate of cost has yet been made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217602/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217603] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of participating in the asylum dispersal scheme in each year since 2000.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office are engaging closely with Local Authority Chief Executives on a continuous basis to assess the costs associated with being a dispersal area. As recently outlined in correspondence between Ministers and Local Authorities, it has been agreed that this joint review will be co-designed and co-produced by Local Authorities and the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217603/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217604] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding his Department allocated to local authorities for their participation in the asylum dispersal scheme in each year since 2010; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no current plans to directly fund local authorities that are dispersal areas. The Providers of accommodation will continue to contribute to Local Authority funds through the payment of council tax, which in FY17/18 contributed over £10m. In addition, the Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities has provided funding of £1.75m to Local Authorities in England, through the Controlling Migration Fund, for the provision of Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officers. The Home Office are engaging closely with Local Authority Chief Executives on a continuous basis to assess the costs associated with being a dispersal area. As recently outlined in correspondence between Ministers and Local Authorities, it has been agreed that this joint review will be co-designed and co-produced by Local Authorities and the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217604/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217605] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of asylum accommodation in each COMPASS region is in the (a) social housing, (b) registered social landlord and (c) private sector.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish this data. The Home Office does publish quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum da-ta tables. These are available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217605/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to commission an independent review of the experience of asylum seekers in asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Affairs Committee, in its recent report, recommended that the Home Office commission an independent review of the experience of asylum seekers in asylum accommodation.

The Government is considering its response to the report and will respond in full shortly. The Home Office is however committed to improving the effective capture and analysis of Customer Insight to drive improvements within asylum accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217607/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the existing 1:200 dispersal ratio in the COMPASS asylum accommodation arrangements will be applied at local authority ward level.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The 1:200 limit generally applies to the whole of a dispersal area and has not historically been applied to individual wards. Instead the Home Office works on an individual basis with Local Authorities to address concerns around population clusters in specific wards.

In addition the COMPASS Providers must consult Local Authorities on all new properties procured for use on the COMPASS Contracts.

Where there is clear evidence that properties are not suitable for use in the asylum dispersal scheme, or evidence that a cluster in a specific ward is no longer sustainable then the Home Office would take action to address this, including where necessary halting procurement or dispersal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217608/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to consult with local authorities before making use of the powers under section 100 and section 101 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 that require a (a) local authority and (b) registered social landlord to assist or designate

part of their housing for the purposes of asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has no plans to use the powers described under section 100 and section 101 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 that require a (a) local authority and (b) registered social landlord to assist or designate part of their housing for the purposes of asylum accommodation.

The Home Office is working closely with a wide range of local authorities to increase the number of areas across the UK that agree to accommodate and support people seeking protection. We take a coordinated approach to the delivery of the various resettlement and asylum schemes and engage through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments can be made where appropriate. Participation in asylum dispersal is subject to discussion and agreement with individual local authorities and there is no target level of participation - every local authority is encouraged to contribute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217609/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities that agreed to participate in asylum dispersal subsequently withdrew that agreement before any asylum seeker was accommodated since January 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is working closely with a wide range of local authorities to increase the number of areas across the UK that agree to accommodate and support people seeking protection. We take a coordinated approach to the delivery of the various resettlement and asylum schemes and engage through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments can be made where appropriate. Participation in asylum dispersal is subject to discussion and agreement with individual local authorities and there is no target level of participation - every local authority is encouraged to contribute and no local authorities have withdrawn from participating since January 2017.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217610/>

Asylum: Contracts

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217599] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he provided existing asylum dispersal local authorities with details of the proposed contracts for asylum accommodation beyond the Statement of Requirements in advance of those contracts being signed and announced in January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office openly shared 'schedule 2', the statement of requirements, and 'schedule 23', procurement consultation, of the accommodation and support and AIRE contracts, which contains the information most pertinent to Local Authorities.

Prior to both contract award and signature we invited Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to engage with Local Authorities to identify those schedules within the contract set of most interest to them.

As part of the procurement process it is essential that the contracting authority adheres to the procurement regulation and protect the integrity of the process. For this reason, additional documents were not openly shared with stakeholders.

We will continue to engage with Local Authorities through the Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to listen to and act in response to concerns raised, ensuring swift and appropriate action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217599/>

Asylum: Contracts

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [217601] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is annual requirement in the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation contracts for joint inspections between his Department's contract compliance team and local authorities in existing asylum dispersal areas.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A property inspection and audit process will form part of the Home Office's contract compliance regime which will ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers are met.

Providers are also required to ensure that the Accommodation for Service Users meets any other statutory housing standards which are applicable in the Specified Contract Region and that licensable Accommodation has been licensed by the Local Authority prior to the property being used to accommodate Service Users and is compliant with the requirements of the LA license whilst the property is used to accommodate Service Users. There is no contractual requirement to jointly inspect properties with local authorities; however as part of current working practices Home Office contract compliance teams have completed joint inspections in some local authority areas and welcome continued collaborative working under the new contract arrangements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217601/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2019 to Question 215158 on UK-France Migration Committee, what proportion of the £3.6 million allocated to the funding of the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK has been made in payments.

Charlie Elphicke (Conservative) [218270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 February 2019 to Question 215158 on UK-France Migration Committee, how many children have been transferred as a result of the £3.6 million allocated to the funding of the development of the Dublin process.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As part of the overall £45.5 million package included in the Sandhurst Treaty to underpin the joint co-operation between the UK and France, we have allocated £3.6 million specifically to fund the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK (including training for those working with unaccompanied children, family tracing and targeted information campaigns). This full package of £3.6 million was paid to the French Government at the end of 2018. We continue to work with France to transfer eligible children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and the Dublin regulation and transfers are ongoing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218269/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218270/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [192941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the longest period spent in immigration detention by a detainee who left an Immigration Removal Centre between June 2017 and October 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publish data on the number of people leaving detention by year and quarter, broken down by length of detention. The latest data is available in tables dt_06 and dt_06_q of the immigration statistics, year ending June 2018: Detention tables.

Figures for July to September 2018 will be released on 29 November 2018 in Immigration statistics, year ending September 2018, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192941/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Commonwealth

Lyn Brown (Labour) [217516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many charter flights have been scheduled for (a) removals, (b) deportations and (c) mixed removals and deportations to Commonwealth countries for March 2019.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [217517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many charter flights have been scheduled for (a) removals, (b) deportations and (c) mixed removals and deportations to Commonwealth countries for April 2019.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [217518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many flights have been chartered for (a) removals, (b) deportations and (c) mixed removals and deportations to Commonwealth countries scheduled for May 2019.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [217519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many flights have been chartered for (a) removals, (b) deportations and (c) mixed removals and deportations to Commonwealth countries scheduled for June 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: For operational reasons, the Home Office does not disclose details of the returns charter flight programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217516/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217517/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217518/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217519/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Jamaica

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [218817] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the flight chartered to deport people to Jamaica in February 2019, if he will publish the (a) offences for which those people were deported, (b) date on which when they first arrived in the UK and (c) the age of those people when they first arrived in the UK.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [218818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the flight chartered to deport individuals to Jamaica in February 2019, how many people allocated to that flight had their deportation (a) postponed and (b) cancelled; and what the (i) offences committed by those people, (b)

date on which those people arrived in the UK and (c) age at which those people first arrived in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not routinely comment on individual case. However, on 6 February 2019, 29 serious foreign criminals were flown to Jamaica on a chartered flight. The crimes committed by the individuals include murder, rape and serious violence. The total combined sentence of their crimes is over 150 years imprisonment.

The law requires we seek to deport foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes in the UK. This ensures we keep the public safe.

None of the people on the flight were British citizens or members of the Windrush generation, who are exempt under section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218817/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-08/218818/>

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [219410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe in relation to the deportation of Zimbabwean nationals.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All asylum and human rights applications from Zimbabwean nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

The Country Policy and Information Note Zimbabwe: Opposition to the government published in April 2018 (available on Gov.uk) outlines our position. We are aware of the current situation in Zimbabwe and we are keeping it under review, but a state of unrest is not in itself a ground for asylum, although each case must be considered on its own facts.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, removal is only enforced when we and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-11/219410/>

The Policy and Information Note referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/703520/Zim_CPIN_-_Pol_opps_-_April_2018.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the EU settlement scheme opened on a trial basis at the end of August and a second pilot phase ended on 21 December. In the light of positive progress, we commenced the wider public testing of the scheme on 21 January. The EU settlement scheme will be fully open by 30 March.

Lord Greaves: My Lords, we recently had a letter dated 11 February from Caroline Nokes,

the Minister for Immigration, telling us that everything was wonderful and that it was all going okay. This is just not true. The Home Office seems to be living in a bubble of its own making. When will it start listening to many of the 3.6 million EU citizens in this country struggling to make sense of a technical and bureaucratic shambles that is not fit for purpose? The internet is awash with frustration, anger, fear and distress in relation to the obstacles in accessing the system, ridiculous demands for evidence, obviously wrong decisions—decisions made by machines—and no proper means of appeal. Is it not time to scrap the scheme and start afresh with a simple system based on a simple acceptance of the rights of people already living here?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the whole construction of the scheme was designed to be as simple and unbureaucratic as possible. To date we have had 100,000 applications in total. As regards the plethora of evidence that people need to supply, in fact they need to supply only three pieces of evidence: first, their identity, secondly their residency and thirdly the absence of criminal convictions.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, the scrapping of the fee was very welcome news when it was announced by the Prime Minister. A number of the 100,000 people who have so far applied will have paid a fee. Can the Minister tell the House how many of them have so far been reimbursed, as the Prime Minister promised?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right to point out that nobody has to pay a fee any longer. However, while the system for returning the fee is in train, people are continuing to pay the fee and will have it reimbursed—although that does not seem to have deterred people from applying for the settlement scheme.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, does my noble friend not remember that as early as July 2016 your Lordships' House advised that it would be a good idea to take the moral high ground and give a guarantee to the 3 million-plus EU citizens living in this country? Even arch-Brexiteers such as my noble friend Lord Forsyth spoke up in favour of that approach. Does she not regret that the Government neglected to take your Lordships' advice?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Prime Minister has always been clear that the 3.6 million EU citizens will be welcome here, and, whether it is a deal or no-deal situation, they will be able to establish their status here through the EU settlement scheme.

Lord Anderson of Swansea (Labour): My Lords, how valid was the pilot scheme launched by the Government, given that they chose a very easy sample?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not know whether the sample was easy. It was taken from the north-west of England, which I was very pleased about, and involved staff and students at 15 institutions. Of those who applied, 65% received settled status and 35% pre-settled status.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, in the pilot scheme 30% were granted only pre-settled status, which lasts for just five years. One problem seems to be that the automatic checks by HMRC and the DWP are not validating a lot of people who have been here for longer than five years, particularly the self-employed. The danger is that people will find giving supplementary evidence such a hassle that they will settle for just pre-settled status—but that is very dangerous. Can the Minister look into whether the Home Office can send them reminders—as HMRC does with tax returns—that they have to convert that into full settled status?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank the noble Baroness for that question. She is right that someone with pre-settled status might forget to apply for full settled status. Of course, they have five years in which to do so—but I will certainly take back her constructive point and respond to her in due course. ...

Lord Clark of Windermere (Labour): My Lords, the Minister has been supportive of this

approach and I applaud her for that. However, are the Government not being a tad complacent when they go on about the fact that 100,000 people have already applied? That is about 2% of those eligible to stay. Bearing in mind that the Government keep saying that D-day is 30 March, is there not a long way to go yet, and should we not step up the campaigns?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord hits on a point which I myself have raised—that we need to step up some of the public information campaigns to give EU citizens who want to apply for settled status the knowledge of how and where to apply. So he is correct on that point. However, on whether we are being complacent, the answer is no. The beta-testing phases have worked very well and I fully expect that, when the system is up and running properly on 30 March, it will continue to run well.

Baroness Bull (Crossbench): Can the Minister say a little more about the rights of British citizens who find themselves settled in the EU on 30 March? Will they enjoy onward movement that will allow them to continue to earn a living—if that is indeed the way in which they earn their living?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly hope that that will be the case, and it will be at the forefront of the Prime Minister's mind when she is negotiating with our colleagues in the EU.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-14/debates/8CD09C7A-6978-4C0B-A1BB-8D1063D4B311/EUSettlementScheme>

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

Child Refugees

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee children have arrived in the United Kingdom from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme, since its launch in April 2016.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, as of September 2018 a total of 1,075 refugees have been resettled through the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme. Over half of those resettled were children. Most refugees settled have been from Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, although—following UNHCR's urgent appeal—we have accepted approximately 50 unaccompanied children from Libya via Niger.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister for her Answer. Will she agree that while the conditions in the camps in Jordan, say, are physically better than in the camps on the Greek islands or in northern France, there are still many people there who are stuck and have no hope of any future unless countries such as Britain show a bit of humanity and bring more of them here. Could we not speed up the process?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, this country is not just bringing people here. We are also helping people out in the region, as the noble Lord will know. He will also know that the then Prime Minister significantly increased our contribution to help those people out in the region, many of whom could not actually make the journey over here. I think that is to be commended. It is also much more efficient to help people out in the region when hopefully peace will come at some point soon.

Baroness Stroud (Conservative): Can my noble friend the Minister tell the House how many of the children who have come to the United Kingdom have gone missing in the care system and what steps will be taken to find them, bring them back into care and ensure they are not further exploited?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank my noble friend for asking a very important question. Those children are particularly vulnerable when they come

here, and people who would wish to exploit children have an ideal opportunity to do so when those children arrive. I can assure my noble friend that local authorities—which are, of course, the corporate parents of these children—are doing all they can to ensure that they do not go missing and, when they do, to ensure their safe return. I cannot give her numbers, but I will try to write to her if I have those numbers.

Lord Anderson of Swansea (Labour): My Lords, Christian refugees from the region, including children, face a double handicap: first, as refugees, and, secondly, because they are not welcome as Christians in the camp. In spite of the warm words of the Foreign Secretary just before Christmas, we received no Christian refugees from the region in the first six months of last year. Has the situation improved?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In assessing whether refugees need our help, we do not do so by what religion they are but by where their vulnerability lies. I do not know whether the situation has improved—it is probably over to my noble friend to follow that up. However, I hope the situation has improved. As I said, we do not differentiate by religion.

The Lord Bishop of Salisbury: The youngsters who have made the journey across Europe are among the most courageous young people in the world. You do not leave home unless you live in the mouth of a shark. What are the Government doing with those who arrive and, as the Minister said, are vulnerable? The Children's Society recently published evidence of a high level of self-harm and suicide among these people. What is happening with the introduction of independent guardians, as is the case in Scotland and Northern Ireland? What other provisions can be made? What can be done for these young people to have permanent leave to remain when they reach adult age?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate is absolutely right: any child who makes that journey is in an incredibly vulnerable position from the moment they leave their country of origin to the moment they arrive here, whether it is to people traffickers who bring them across dangerous seas, the dangerous seas themselves or the exploitation they might face during the journey or when they arrive here. Local authorities will provide wraparound care through the various agencies that might be involved with these children. The right reverend Prelate is right to say that psychological trauma is one of the main things that these children suffer. The message is that children should not be sent across these dangerous regions and across the sea to get here. They should be helped in the region or become refugees, at which point this country will give them the security that they need.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, 1,075 is a drop in the ocean given the appalling situation in the region. Last week, the Minister assured the House that the Home Office takes very seriously the importance of quality assurance, and that must include efficiency. To give just one example, in October, the Court of Appeal described as patently inadequate the Home Office's dealing with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Is the Minister satisfied that quality assurance really is embedded in the Home Office?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, 1,075 is not the definitive number: it is 1,075 who have been settled through the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme. In addition, there is the vulnerable persons settlement scheme, under which we have resettled almost 14,000 people, half of whom were children. I am confident that quality assurance is in place, and I expect it to be in place given that we are dealing with probably the most vulnerable children who settle in this country.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale (Labour): My Lords, on trafficking and those who the Government quite rightly say should be deterred from travelling to the Mediterranean if at all possible, the reality is that thousands of people are still being trafficked and sent—not necessarily voluntarily. They then go on to boats on the Mediterranean and make that

most dangerous of crossings. There are now no rescue boats whatever available on the Mediterranean because of the actions of the Italian Government, supported by the European Union and others. When people do find themselves in the sea, they are drowning. What actions are the Government taking to put pressure on the Italian authorities and the European Union, in these last few weeks of our membership, to rectify the situation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Whether we are a member of the European Union or not, we will take seriously our responsibilities to help those people in need. The noble Lord will appreciate that there is a fine balance to be struck between encouraging people to make dangerous journeys and wanting to help them take refuge from some of the terrible situations they have come from.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-02-11/debates/3EC1190C-1902-4022-ABF4-28D25B373BAA/ChildRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

NHS: Migrant Workers

Lord Smith of Leigh (Labour) [HL13306] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of NHS staff, per region in England, are citizens of other EU member states; and what assessment they have made of the impact of Brexit on those employees.

Reply from Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers. The following table shows the percentage of HCHS staff that are known to have an EU27 nationality in England and by Health Education England region, as at 31 October 2019, headcount.

	Percentage of HCHS staff with an EU27 nationality
England	5%
Of which:	
Health Education East Midlands	3%
Health Education East of England	7%
Health Education Yorkshire and the Humber	2%
Health Education Wessex	7%
Health Education Thames Valley	9%
Health Education North West London	10%
Health Education South London	10%
Health Education North Central and East London	11%
Health Education Kent, Surrey and Sussex	7%
Health Education North East	2%
Health Education North West	3%
Health Education West Midlands	3%
Health Education South West	5%

Source: NHS Digital

These figures are based on nationality data held on the Electronic Staff Record. It is self-recorded, so can differ from an individual's citizenship or immigration status. The Government is committed to ensuring that the over 63,000 European Union nationals that work in the National Health Service not only stay in the United Kingdom after we leave the EU, but feel welcomed and encouraged to do so. Part

of this commitment is mitigating against any potential impact that EU exit might have on EU citizens in the UK. To help achieve this, the Home Office has opened the public testing phase of the EU Settlement Scheme. All EU nationals are eligible to apply to the scheme's public testing phase. Furthermore, to help facilitate as many applications as possible, the Prime Minister announced on 21 January 2019 that, as of 30 March 2019, all applications to the settlement scheme will be free. Additionally, where individuals have applied, or do apply, before that date, and are charged an application fee, then this fee will be refunded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-30/HL13306/>

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

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL13362] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement made by the Home Secretary on 28 January on no deal arrangements for EU citizens, what requirements EU citizens who have previously lived in the UK will have to meet to have the right to apply for settlement; what estimate they have made of how many such EU citizens are likely to apply; and on what basis any estimate was made.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EU citizens who have previously lived in the UK will be eligible to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme, provided that they have maintained their continuity of residence in the UK and meet all the other requirements.

Those who have been continuously resident in the UK for five years or more may be absent from the UK for up to five years without breaking their continuity of residence. Those who have been continuously resident in the UK for less than five years are allowed up to six months' absence in any 12-month period, and one period of absence of up to 12 months for a good reason, such as pregnancy or an overseas posting.

An Impact Assessment (IA) for the EU Settlement Scheme has been produced which includes indicative estimates of volume of applications. The IA is currently under review in light of the announcement made on 21 January 2019 regarding the removal of application fees for the scheme. The IA can be found here:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/116/pdfs/ukia_20180116_en.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-01/HL13362/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-no-deal-arrangements-for-eu-citizens>

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

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

Asylum

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL13174] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether a refugee who has been granted asylum should be allowed to be the subject of an Interpol Red Notice initiated by the country they are seeking asylum from.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: INTERPOL is a crucial organisation enabling police to police cooperation between 194 member countries.

INTERPOL systems enable member countries to issue Red Notices to seek the location and arrest of persons who are wanted with a view to extradition or other lawful action. Such notices must be made strictly in compliance with INTERPOL's

constitution which forbids any intervention or activities of a political, military, religious or racial character. The Government considers very seriously any misuse of INTERPOL notices and strongly supports INTERPOL's efforts to ensure systems are in place that protect individuals' human rights.

It is up to each INTERPOL member country's legal framework as to what action will be taken in respect of an individual who is subject to an INTERPOL Red Notice, alongside a consideration of other relevant factors such as an asylum claim.

Those granted refugee status in the UK are not expected to return to their country of origin in accordance with the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention.

As a matter of policy, the UK will moreover not disclose the existence or status of any asylum claim to the national authorities of their country of origin

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-28/HL13174/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children in Care

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL13372] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that local authorities do not take a disproportionate number of unaccompanied asylum-seekers who are minors.

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL13373] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they give to local authorities who are responsible for unaccompanied asylum-seekers who are minors.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Transfer Scheme was launched on 1 July 2016 and has been working to ensure a fairer allocation of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) across the UK. A significant number of local authorities have participated in the scheme and enabled the transfer of children away from local authorities with a disproportionate number of UASC in their care.

Since it was launched in July 2016, more than 700 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been transferred via the NTS. This is a significant achievement which has seen many local authorities offer placements for children whose best interests are served by transferring to another local authority. The pace and number of transfers has slowed. We will continue to engage with local authorities across the country to encourage further offers and consider options in how best to share the burden.

The government provides funding to local authorities as a contribution to-wards the costs incurred in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and young care leavers who were UASC.

For unaccompanied children arriving from 1 July 2016, local authorities can claim £114 per day for those children aged under 16 and £91 per day for those children aged 16 or 17. More information on the funding available to local authorities supporting UASC and former UASC care leavers can be found in the funding instructions published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-01/HL13372/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-01/HL13373/>

Deportation: Appeals

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL13286] To ask Her Majesty's Government,

further to the Written Answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 13 July 2018 (HL9105), what steps they have taken to encourage the Tribunal Procedure Committee to reach a decision regarding the implementation of the Government's proposals to cap the time between an initial Home Office decision to remove a detained foreign criminal or failed asylum seeker and the conclusion of their appeal to the First-tier Tribunal.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Tribunal Procedure Committee is independent of government and it would be inappropriate for ministers or their officials to interfere in the Committee's decision making.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-30/HL13286/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-29/HL9105/>

Press Releases

EU Settlement Scheme: update

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778890/EUSS_Letter.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Harriet Harman MP regarding launch of the pilot to refer cases of detained migrants to the First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber at the two-month point

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0176/CN_to_JCHR_Chair_-_Two_Month_Automatic_Bail_Referral_Pilot_.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding piloting an additional automatic bail referral to the First-tier Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber for migrants in detention at the two-month point

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0175/CN_to_HASC_Chair_-_Two_Month_Automatic_Bail_Referral_Pilot_.pdf

EU asylum figures 2018: Applications return to 2014 levels, decreasing by 10% over previous year

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/eu-asylum-figures-2018-applications-return-2014-levels-decreasing-10-over-previous-year>

News

Immigration is an 'economic necessity' for Scotland – CBI

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/immigration-is-an-economic-necessity-for-scotland-cbi-1-4872925>

Immigration handbook features only one in five female role models

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/feb/12/only-one-in-five-role-models-in-home-office-handbook-are-women>

Net migration 'could increase by 100,000' under Government's post-Brexit regime

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/12/net-migration-could-increase-100000-governments-post-brexit/>

Immigration regime after Brexit 'risks new Windrush scandal'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/11/immigration-regime-after-brexit-risks-new-windrush-scandal>

EU citizens 'could travel to UK and stay illegally under no-deal Brexit' using e-gates

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/16/eu-citizens-could-travel-uk-stay-illegally-no-deal-brexit-using/>

Government immigration plans to cost employers more than £1bn after Brexit

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-white-paper-cost-employers-red-tape-visa-brexit-a8772956.html>

Stop holding migrants for more than 28 days, Tory MPs demand

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/stop-holding-migrants-for-more-than-28-days-tory-mps-demand-v5zmkw9fz>

UK urged to stop deportations to Zimbabwe

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/13/uk-urged-to-stop-deportations-to-zimbabwe>

'I can hardly sleep': the Zimbabweans facing deportation from UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/12/i-can-hardly-sleep-the-zimbabweans-facing-deportation-from-uk>

Home Office criticised for accelerating removals to Zimbabwe

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/12/home-office-criticised-for-accelerating-removals-to-zimbabwe>

How Home Office hires out staff to hunt migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/16/home-office-hires-out-staff-hunt-migrants-hostile-environment>

How retraining refugees could help tackle NHS staffing crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/13/refugee-scheme-nhs-staffing-crisis-work-placements>

EU moves to set up European Labour Agency to enforce work standards for migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/eu-european-labour-agency-migrant-workers-parliament-council-romania-a8779281.html>

Valentine's Day Tinder messages aim to stop deportations

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/14/valentines-day-tinder-messages-aim-to-stop-deportations>

Employer 'denied treatment to illegal migrant who lost leg'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-13/scotland/employer-denied-treatment-to-illegal-migrant-who-lost-leg-3kqcvzhhs>

Lenny Henry on his Windrush series: 'We felt the sting of injustice sharply'

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/feb/15/lenny-henry-on-his-windrush-series-we-felt-the-sting-of-injustice-sharply>

Hotels train staff to spot human trafficking

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47201210>

Home Office apologises to man, 90, told to fly to US to renew visa

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/14/home-office-apologises-to-man-90-told-to-fly-to-us-to-renew-visa>

'Frail' Edinburgh couple granted leave to stay in UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-47205444>

Scots Iranian couple win battle against deportation

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17425214.scots-iranian-couple-win-battle-against-deportation/>

Edinburgh Rugby star Damien Hoyland's Iranian grandparents granted leave to remain in the UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-rugby-star-damien-hoyland-s-iranian-grandparents-granted-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk-1-4871689>

Home Office abandons plan to force great-grandparents out of country

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/12/home-office-abandons-plan-to-force-great-grandparents-out-of-country-iran>

Rugby star Damien Hoyland's Iranian grandparents can stay in Britain after campaign

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-13/scotland/rugby-star-damien-hoylands-iranian-grandparents-can-stay-in-britain-after-campaign-dtjvtvx0v>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Integrated Communities

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (James Brokenshire) [HCWS1321] Britain is a great place to live and is made stronger by its diversity. However, the benefits and opportunities of our society are not felt equally by everyone. No community should feel excluded, and everyone should understand and embrace the benefits and opportunities of living in modern Britain.

In March 2018, the Government launched a consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper to obtain the views of the public and organisations on its ambitious goal to build integrated communities where people—whatever their background—can live, work, learn and socialise together based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. The consultation ran for 12 weeks in total and closed on 5 June 2018.

I am today publishing the Government's response to this consultation. The consultation process considered the Government's proposed actions as laid out in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper and presented a number of questions about the Government's strategy for consultation. There were over 3,400 responses to the consultation, reflecting the high level of interest in building integrated communities. A breakdown of the responses to each of these questions can be found in the Government's response.

The Government have taken the views expressed in the consultation into account when developing our next steps. These are set out in the integrated communities action plan I am also publishing today. This outlines more than 70 actions across Government to help create strong and integrated communities. This action plan will build the capacity of our

leaders, strengthen our communities, boost English language proficiency, and give people the infrastructure they need to thrive. The views of communities will continue to be an important factor when implementing these actions.

The action plan sets out a framework of national priority actions to promote integration and adopts a localised approach. As the Secretary of State for Communities, one of my priorities is to help build thriving, liveable and resilient places where people get along—from our high streets to our community spaces.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-11/debates/1902111000011/IntegratedCommunities>

The documents referred to above can be read at

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

and

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

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Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Human Rights in the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-13/debates/D3018F3E-4DAB-4D0C-B9D7-CF1B84DBD204/HumanRightsInTheUK>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Universities: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL13346] To ask Her Majesty's Government what role the Office for Students will play in monitoring the performance of universities in reducing ethnic inequalities in university academic staffing; and what plans they have to require universities to address such inequalities.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The government and the Office for Students (OfS) are focused on addressing inequalities in higher education. Government consulted on the publication of data on senior staff remuneration, including in relation to gender and ethnicity. The OfS retains the power to require the disclosure of such information through its accounts direction.

Higher education institutions are independent and responsible for decisions about who they employ. Universities, like every employer, must ensure they meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. On February 1, the government announced measures to tackle ethnic disparities in higher education including encouraging higher education providers to make use of tools such as the Race at Work Charter and the Race Equality Charter to drive forward a step-change in the recruitment and progression of ethnic minority employees.

The government has also consulted on ethnicity pay reporting in order to inform future government policy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-01/HL13346/>

The Race at Work Charter, referred to above, can be read at

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

The Race Equality Charter, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/race-equality-charter/>

Universities: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL13347] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the low numbers of university academics and staff from black and minority ethnic backgrounds on the attainment of black and minority ethnic students.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Higher education institutions are independent and responsible for decisions about who they employ. Universities, like every employer, must ensure they meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Through the Race Disparity Audit, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister set out her expectation that more must be done to create a workforce that is representative of British society today. On 1 February, the government launched measures to drive change in tackling inequalities between ethnic groups in higher education.

Equality and Diversity in higher education is a priority for government and the Office for Students (OfS). The OfS will use Access and Participation Plans to hold higher education providers to account for disparities in access and attainment of black and ethnic minority students.

This year, for the first time, registered higher education providers will be required to publish data on measures including attainment broken down by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic groups. This will increase transparency on attainment gaps for ethnic minority students, shining a light on those providers that are not performing well.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-01/HL13347/>

The Race Disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Schools: Discrimination

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour) [HL13344] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools Ofsted has reported to them as operating a segregation policy; and what action has been taken as a result of any such reports.

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour) [HL13345] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools in England treat girls differently to boys in terms of (1) common room access, (2) playground activities, (3) eating arrangements, and (4) any other activities in the school but outside the classroom.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: In June 2018 the department published the attached guidance 'Gender separation in mixed schools', to support schools in complying with the law on this matter. Such separation is permissible when in accordance with exemptions under the Equality Act 2010 – for instance those related to the correction of educational disadvantage or the needs of different sexes, provision for competitive sports, or is insignificant enough to be regarded as de minimis.

Ofsted began systematically reporting on pupil segregation matters from September 2018 and has drawn attention to this in several inspection reports published since that date. The exact number of schools reported by Ofsted could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The department is taking action in relation to each school where this has occurred, by seeking details of the school's plans to eliminate segregation or making organisational changes to the school and setting out the approvals process which has to be followed. The department is also in touch with a number of schools thought to operate segregation for pupils to discuss their plans, and has liaised with representative bodies for the schools involved. Information regarding how many schools in England treat girls differently to boys in terms of (1) common room access, (2) playground activities, (3) eating arrangements, and (4) any other activities in the school but outside the classroom, is not held centrally.

[HL13344 HL13345 Gender Separation in Mixed Schools](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-31/HL13344/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-31/HL13345/>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Debate Pack: Human Rights in the UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0031/CDP-2019-0031.pdf>

News

Black pupils' schooling 'dumbed down over special needs'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47240580>

UK university unveils country's first sports hijab to encourage Muslim women to participate

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sports-hijab-muslim-women-students-brunel-university-london-a8773806.html>

Choose an ethnic minority figure as new face of Britain's £50 note, Treasury urges Bank of England

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/15/choose-ethnic-minority-figure-new-face-britains-50-notetresury/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Business of the House

Matthew Offord (Conservative): I thank the Leader of the House for announcing next week's business. I, for one, am very pleased with its contents. Last year saw a record number of antisemitic allegations, which the chief executive of the Community Security Trust has blamed on antisemitic politics and the deliberate exclusion of Jews from anti-racist norms. May I therefore thank the Leader of the House for granting a debate in Government time, so that we can see what the Government are doing to address the problem of antisemitism and how we can remove this scourge from our party politics?

Reply from Andrea Leadsom: I am delighted to have been able to announce a debate on antisemitism for next week. It is incredibly distressing to see cases of antisemitism on the rise in this country, and it must stop. Antisemitism is despicable and it has no place in society. What I can say to my hon. Friend is that the Leader of the Opposition's own MPs tabled and unanimously passed a motion last week calling on the party leadership to adequately tackle cases of antisemitism, as a failure to do so seriously risks antisemitism in the Labour party appearing normalised and the party seeming to be institutionally antisemitic.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-14/debates/F3F9CC25-D033-4FCB-8D3B-2D6BA201D411/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-E7E5340E-3A61-43E9-BAB7-641B93DC477D>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

John Hayes (Conservative) [218185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of hate crime there have been in each police force area in each of the last five years.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of Hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Data at the Police Force Area level are published in Open Data Tables and can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749319/prc-hate-crime-open-data.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218185/>

Castes: Discrimination

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [217082] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to her Written Statement of 23 July 2018 on Government Response to Caste Consultation, HCWS898, if she will ensure that (a) the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance and (b) other non-Government organisations working with victims of caste-based discrimination are able to comment on and input into that draft guidance.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government Equalities Office will engage with a range of organisations involved in the issue of caste and the Equality Act 2010, before the guidance is published.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217082/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-07-23/HCWS898/>

Castes: Discrimination

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [217083] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to her Written Statement of 23 July 2018 on Government Response to Caste Consultation, HCWS898, whether the guidance for employers, service providers and public authorities will be statutory guidance linked to the relevant sections of the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We intend to issue non-statutory guidance.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217083/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-07-23/HCWS898/>

Antisemitism

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [217670] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to Answer of 24 April to Question 136144 on Antisemitism, what progress his Department has made on creating a database of (a) symbols, (b) slogans and (c) flags that may be illegal as a result of their use to incite hatred.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: MHCLG supported the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to create and populate a database of symbols of proscribed organisations for use by police forces. Information about the impact that these symbols and others have on community tensions has also been included.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217670/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136144/>

Cemeteries: Vandalism

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [217674] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what (a) steps his Department has taken and (b) representations his Department has made to (i) local authorities and (ii) the police to protect (A) Islamic and (B) Jewish cemeteries from incidents of targeted vandalism and desecration.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Vandalism and the desecration of cemeteries are unacceptable criminal offences and we expect police forces to take any reports seriously. In cases where these are aggravated by hostility towards particular religious communities they will be investigated as hate crimes and may attract a sentence uplift if prosecuted.

We work closely with stakeholders including the Community Security Trust and Tell MAMA who support religious communities to increase reporting and respond effectively to hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217674/>

Schools: Antisemitism

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [218172] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking within schools to tackle antisemitism.

Reply from Anne Milton: Any form of intolerance or bullying, including antisemitism is unacceptable. Schools must promote our shared values, which includes mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs. The department supports schools to implement this requirement through a range of resources, such as those included on the Educate Against Hate website, as well as by working with networks of experts on the ground who provide direct support to schools on this. Every state-funded school, maintained and academy, must also teach religious education to all pupils up to the age of 18.

Schools must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act and must also have a behaviour policy which includes measures to prevent bullying. Recent research commissioned by the department details common strategies that schools have found to be effective for combating bullying.

The department is funding a number of projects to help schools tackle bullying, including hate-related bullying. This includes funding the Anne Frank Trust to

develop their 'Free to Be' debate programme, which encourages young people to think about the importance of tackling prejudice, discrimination and bullying. We also recently published the 'Respectful Schools Communities' toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

The department is fully committed to educating pupils about the Holocaust and is the only topic that is compulsory in the national curriculum for history. We fund the Centre for Holocaust at University College London to train trainee and serving teachers to teach this important subject and to set up a network of Beacon schools to share good practice. We also fund the Holocaust Education Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme, which enables teachers and sixth form students to visit Auschwitz.

Schools can also address intolerance and bullying as part of non-statutory personal, social, health and economic education. We are also making relationships education compulsory in all primary schools and relationships and sex education compulsory in all secondary schools. We have completed a public consultation on draft guidance which is clear that pupils will be taught about the importance of building respectful relationships including, for example, understanding the impact of bullying and how stereotypes can be damaging.

Subject to making the regulations, schools will be required to teach these new subjects from September 2020, but they will be encouraged and supported to start teaching them from September 2019 on a voluntary basis.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-07/218172/>

The Educate Against Hate website, referred to above, can be read at <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

The toolkit referred to above can be read at <http://educateagainsthate.com/download/37/>

Genocide: World War II

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [217667] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much his Department has spent on funding teacher training to support teachers in facilitating lessons on the holocaust in classroom settings in each year since 2015.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Since 2015 the Department has provided the Centre for Holocaust at UCL with £500,000 a year to train trainee and serving teachers to teach this important subject and to set up a network of schools to share good practice. In addition, the Department funds the Holocaust Education Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme, one element of which provides teachers with visits to Auschwitz that are designed to improve their teaching of the Holocaust. Total funding for the programme since 2015 is shown in the table below. A new grant agreement is in place for 2019-22.

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
£1,850,000	£1,954,479	£2,002,758	£2,080,054

The Department is fully committed to Holocaust education. The recent disturbing report by the Community Security Trust, which shows that anti-semitic incidents continue to rise, shows how important it is to continue to educate children about the Holocaust and the lessons it provides for today.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217667/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Hate Crime

The Lord Bishop of Newcastle [HL13531] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle hate crime in schools; and what assessment they have made of the recent incident of vandalism at Bahr Academy.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: Hate crime has no place in our society and no child should live in fear of racism or bullying. Schools must promote our shared values, which include mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, and they must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act. Schools must also have a behaviour policy which includes measures to prevent bullying.

Recent research commissioned by the Department for Education details common strategies that schools have found to be effective for combating bullying. The department is funding a number of projects to help schools tackle bullying, including hate-related bullying, and recently published the attached 'Respectful Schools Communities' toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

The department is also taking forward a number of commitments in the government's attached 'Hate Crime Action Plan' to support the sector to tackle and prevent prejudice and hate-related issues, as well as in the attached 'Integrated Communities Strategy' to support integration and community cohesion.

Vandalism of any kind is unacceptable, and where a school is vandalised, the welfare of pupils and staff is paramount. We are aware of the incident at Bahr Academy. We have liaised with the local authority and stand ready to work with partners and assist the school in any way we can.

[HL13531_Respectful_schools_signposting_tool](#)

[HL13531_Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government](#)

[HL13531_Hate_crime_action_plan_2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-06/HL13531/>

New Publications

Addressing Inclusion: Effectively Challenging Racism in Schools

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b0353f_dc2e501101154002b90e87b9dfaea6d8.pdf

Employment Appeal Tribunal decision: Gan Menachem Hendon Ltd v Ms Zelda De Groen

The Employment Appeal Tribunal has held that a Jewish worker at an Orthodox Jewish nursery who was dismissed when it became known that she was cohabiting with her boyfriend, did not suffer direct or indirect discrimination on the ground of religion or belief.

To read the full judgement see

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c62a958e5274a3187450a19/Gan_Menachem_Hendon_Ltd_v_Ms_Zelda_De_Groen_UKEAT_0059_18_OO.pdf

News: Antisemitism in the Labour Party

Shadow cabinet clash over anti-Semitism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47219382>

Labour: 673 anti-Semitism complaints in 10 months

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47203397>

Labour reveals 673 allegations of anti-Semitism in party during last 10 months

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17425094.labour-reveals-673-allegations-of-anti-semitism-in-party-during-last-10-months/>

'No respect for Jewish feelings' in the Labour Party

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-47217982>

Formby denies Labour leadership is ignoring MPs on antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/12/formby-denies-labour-leadership-is-ignoring-mps-on-antisemitism>

Labour says it has looked into 673 cases of alleged antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/11/labour-has-looked-into-673-cases-of-alleged-antisemitism-figures-show>

Keir Starmer calls for tougher Labour rules to expel antisemitic members

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/feb/13/keir-starmer-calls-for-tougher-labour-rules-to-expel-antisemitic-members>

Full extent of Labour's anti-Semitism problem revealed as party admits receiving hundreds of complaints

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/11/labour-has-received-nearly-700-complaints-anti-semitism-past/>

Michael Dugher to quit Labour amid concerns over 'institutional' anti-Semitism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17438553.michael-dugher-to-quit-labour-amid-concerns-over-institutional-anti-semitism/>

Former Labour vice chairman Michael Dugher to quit party because it is institutionally antisemitic'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-party-antisemitism-michael-dugher-quits-former-vice-chair-a8783086.html>

Michael Dugher to quit Labour amid concerns over 'institutional' anti-semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/02/17/micahel-dugher-quit-labour-amid-concerns-institutional-anti/>

A third of voters believe Jeremy Corbyn is anti-semitic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/a-third-of-voters-believe-jeremy-corbyn-is-anti-semitic-tnnp2nk36>

Tony Blair urges Labour to be more robust on antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-11/news/tony-blair-urges-labour-to-be-more-robust-on-antisemitism-qvnc0hflh>

Leftwingers appoint Jackie Walker, activist suspended over antisemitism claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/leftwingers-appoint-jackie-walker-activist-suspended-over-antisemitism-claims-m0q3kpkh2>

Bringing up antisemitism 'is upsetting Labour staff'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-13/news/bringing-up-antisemitism-is-upsetting-labour-staff-26c606nnc>

We've reached a new low in relations between British Jews and the left

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-12/news/weve-reached-a-new-low-in-relations-between-british-jews-and-the-left-57bl3ns5j>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Labour MP Paula Sherriff criticises CPS over non-prosecution

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-47266406>

SNP councillor cleared of sectarian abuse as partner admits yelling 'Pope's a paedo' at neighbour

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-councillor-cleared-sectarian-abuse-13994723>

Charges dropped against Glasgow SNP councillor Russell Robertson

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17429761.charges-dropped-against-glasgow-snp-councillor-russell-robertson/>

Is our NHS racist? Medical chief calls for monitoring of racism against BME doctors in Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17438653.is-our-nhs-racist-medical-chief-calls-for-monitoring-of-racism-against-bme-doctors-in-scotland/>

Extreme neo-Nazi 'death cults' drawing in children as young as 13, report warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/far-right-neo-nazi-uk-extremism-children-teenagers-report-hope-not-hate-a8781941.html>

Stephen Lawrence pal: Labour created police state

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/stephen-lawrence-pal-labour-created-police-state-99r9fjzl8>

Third of Britons believe Islam threatens British way of life, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/17/third-of-britons-believe-islam-threatens-british-way-of-life-says-report>

Rape charity hotline bombarded with 'racist abuse' from Tommy Robinson supporters

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rape-crisis-tommy-robinson-facebook-wycombe-chiltern-south-bucks-far-right-a8782661.html>

Tommy Robinson boasts about scoring drugs and proclaims himself 'king of whole Islam race', in newly emerged video

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/tommy-robinson-video-drugs-cocaine-islam-far-right-israel-palestine-edl-a8776991.html>

School science textbooks make children more racially prejudiced, scientists find

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/school-racism-children-textbooks-race-prejudice-education-sickle-cell-africa-a8780296.html>

Antisemitism rising sharply across Europe, latest figures show

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/feb/15/antisemitism-rising-sharply-across-europe-latest-figures-show>

'No blacks' graffiti painted on door of 10-year-old's Salford home

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/feb/17/no-blacks-graffiti-painted-on-door-of-10-year-olds-salford-home>

Holocaust denier who wrote antisemitic songs has conviction upheld

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/holocaust-denial-antisemitic-song-auschwitz-alison-chabloz-conviction-upheld-a8777991.html>

Strong European Parliament call to address antigypsyism

<https://www.enar-eu.org/Strong-European-Parliament-call-to-address-anti-Roma-racism>

Sectarianism is a turn-off

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/sectarianism-is-a-turn-off>

Probe after Coventry students wear anti-Semitic T-shirts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-47215297>

Coventry university sports club suspended over claims members wore T-shirts saying 'the Jews deserved it'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/coventry-university-sports-club-suspend-t-shirts-antisemitism-jews-swastikas-student-union-a8775316.html>

Sectarian turn off as bigots lose out on love due to crass online comments

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/family-relationships/sectarian-turn-bigots-lose-out-13996367>

CBBC sitcom about British Chinese family accused of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/feb/15/cbbc-sitcom-about-british-chinese-family-living-with-the-lams-accused-of-racism>

CBBC accused of racism over Living With the Lams sitcom about British Chinese family

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/cbbc-living-with-lams-china-asian-family-racism-controversy-writers-a8781421.html>

Two men charged over Aberdeen v Rangers racial chants

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-47211851>

Two charged over 'racist remarks' at Aberdeen v Rangers match

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/aberdeen-north-east/two-charged-over-racist-remarks-at-aberdeen-v-rangers-match-1-4871842>

Academic Robin DiAngelo: 'We have to stop thinking about racism as someone who says the N-word'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/16/white-fragility-racism-interview-robin-diangelo>

Silent protest as Orange Walk passes Glasgow church of attacked priest

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/silent-protest-as-orange-walk-passes-glasgow-church-of-attacked-priest-1-4874227>

Holocaust denial is a reality in Britain that cannot be ignored

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-12/news/holocaust-denial-is-a-reality-in-britain-that-cannot-be-ignored-pdx7kssfr>

Holocaust denier criticised for secret lectures on Second World War

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/holocaust-denier-criticised-for-secret-lectures-on-second-world-war-xcrqfd0kk>

Ignorance of the Holocaust is different to wilful disbelief

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/feb/10/ignorance-holocaust-wilful-disbelief-poll-denial-antisemitism>

Coatbridge Nazi dog man baits police to "come and get me" after fine refusal

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/coatbridge-nazi-dog-man-baits-13987562>

Coatbridge 'Nazi dog' prankster Mark Meechan boasts about not paying fine over offensive video

<https://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/17424478.coatbridge-nazi-dog-prankster-mark-meechan-boasts-about-not-paying-fine-over-offensive-video/>

Nazi pug YouTuber could have bank account frozen

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/meechan-could-have-bank-account-frozen-by-courts-hw7xgkltx>

Woman 'accused of racism by white staff' at Bristol venue

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-47046729>

Ruqaiya Haris: managing the hate online when you're young, female and Muslim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-47163530/ruqaiya-haris-managing-the-hate-online-when-you-re-young-female-and-muslim>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions: FGM

Helen Whately (Conservative): ... In January, the mother of a three-year-old girl was convicted of female genital mutilation. It is our first FGM conviction, but a chilling reminder that young girls are still being cut not just in Africa and around the world but here in the UK. Will my right hon. Friend make Government time to progress the Bill of my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith) to protect more girls from this abhorrent practice?

Reply from the Prime Minister: My hon. Friend is absolutely right to raise this abhorrent practice and to recognise the importance of the first prosecution that took place on female genital mutilation here in the UK. It is only right that we find time for this Bill, and the Government will provide time to deliver it. We have strengthened the law on FGM, leading to that first conviction, and we are helping communities around the world to end this appalling crime, but it is important that we give time to this Bill and act further to ensure that we end what is an absolutely abhorrent crime that scars young girls for the rest of their lives both physically and mentally.

Legislation against Female Genital Mutilation

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities if the Government will introduce further legislation to protect vulnerable young girls against female genital mutilation.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Lucy Frazer): I am grateful for the opportunity to address the House on this important matter. Female genital mutilation has no place in our society. It is an extremely painful and harmful practice that blights the lives of many girls and women. The Government have taken the lead in tackling this barbaric crime. We strengthened the law in 2015 to introduce FGM protection orders and help prevent this appalling crime, and nearly 300 of these orders have now been made. Lord Berkeley's Bill, supported by my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith), would improve the powers of the courts to protect children, and it is disappointing it was objected to on Friday. I am pleased to say, however, that we are working to bring it back in Government time.

Wera Hobhouse: ... We need greater protection for girls at risk of female genital mutilation. The statistics clearly prove that female genital mutilation is on the rise, yet successful instances of protection orders being obtained are as rare as ever, and only four cases have ever been prosecuted. Can the Minister update us on the implementation of the legislation?

The successful prosecution 10 days ago of a mother who had inflicted this practice on her young daughter illustrates the flaw with current legislation: prosecutions only take place after the crime has been committed, and even then rarely. Further protections are needed to ensure that young girls do not have to go through the brutal, life-changing and sometimes life-threatening trauma of female genital mutilation. Can the Minister assure the House that the Government are willing to explore all legislative options, including amending the Children Act 1989, to ensure that young girls do not stay in a home where they are at risk of female genital mutilation? ...

Reply from Lucy Frazer: ... Since 2015, the Government have introduced a number of measures to protect women and girls from female genital mutilation. We have created several offences, including failing to protect a girl from FGM. We have introduced civil protection orders, and there is a mandatory duty to report known cases involving under-18s. As I mentioned at the beginning, the Government will present a Bill in Government time. ...

Helen Watley (Conservative): I welcome my hon. and learned Friend's commitment to ensuring that the Bill will be given Government time, but will she give me an indication of when she expects this amendment to the Children Act to be presented to the House?

Reply from Lucy Frazer: I cannot give my hon. Friend a precise indication, as that is not within my power, but the Government intend to act very swiftly.

Carolyn Harris (Labour): ... Female genital mutilation is an abhorrent practice, which can have dreadful consequences for the women and young girls who fall victim to it. Since legislation in 1985, there has been only one—very recent—conviction, although the NHS reports that nearly 15,500 cases presented at hospitals with symptoms of FGM in the past two years. The absence of successful prosecutions in our country indicates the failure of the current procedures. It is essential that we recognise the secrecy and fear surrounding the practice and address the fact that it makes people unlikely to report suspicions or instances of FGM.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 provides for protection orders, which offer a legal means of protecting and safeguarding potential victims. Since 2015, more than 240 orders have been granted to help victims and those at risk, which demonstrates that such protections

are effective and can be used as a means of proactive assistance. ...

The Bill will protect countless women and girls, and any delay in its passage puts them at unnecessary risk. The Government should have introduced legislation long before now. ...

Reply from Lucy Frazer: ... It is essential to protect women and girls, and since 2015, the Government have introduced a number of measures to ensure that they are protected. As I have said, the Bill will be dealt with in Government time, but let me clarify what it does. It is not the case that without it, women and girls do not have protection; we introduced protections in 2015. What the Bill will do is enable a judge to make a care order during the same proceedings.

The hon. Lady makes another important point about the number of protection orders. She said that more than 200 had been issued since September. In fact, the number has gone up to 296; so just under 300 protection orders have been granted since their introduction at the end of September 2018.

I want to make a final point because a number of Members rightly identified that not enough prosecutions are successful, and this is a very important point that we must tackle. We are tackling it in a number of ways, through funding for education and through the bringing of legislation, but these are very difficult cases to prosecute for a number of reasons: cultural taboos, lack of information from affected communities and the fact that the age of the vulnerable girls might prevent them from coming forward. The issue we have in this country is not isolated; there is a very low prosecution rate for these kinds of offences across Europe, but this Government are committed to doing whatever we can to protect these girls further from this terrible crime. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-11/debates/6933BE33-CD4C-43C2-84C3-5EF73386015E/LegislationAgainstFemaleGenitalMutilation>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Mortgages: Islam

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [217062] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent assessment he has made of the availability of Sharia-compliant home purchase plans.

Reply from John Glen: The Government is committed to the availability of Islamic finance in the UK to ensure that no one is denied access to competitive financial products for reasons of faith. We are doing this by working to ensure that Sharia-compliant financial products can be supplied on the same terms and at the same standard as conventional financial products. The UK is already the western leader in Islamic finance, however we continue to explore areas where Islamic finance can be developed further.

Home purchase plans are enabled by regulations overseen by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the independent regulator set up by the Government to ensure consumers are receive appropriate protection.

Beyond the requirements set out in the FCA regulations, decisions around the pricing and availability of individual mortgage loans remain commercial decisions for lenders, and the Government does not seek to intervene in these decisions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/217062/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [216995] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been convicted of FGM offences in the last three years.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Up until 31 December 2017, there have been no convictions in England and Wales 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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-05/216995/>

News

Male MP's block on FGM bill 'appalling'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17422534.male-mps-block-on-fgm-bill-appalling/>

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Other News

Stop Muslim women being trapped in marriages, charity pleads

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/stop-muslim-women-being-trapped-in-marriages-charity-pleads-bxvwfv9qp>

Hospitals treats FGM victims 230 times in two years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-02-11/scotland/nhs-treats-fgm-victims-230-times-in-two-years-cmpvqgm07>

Cousin marriages cited as significant factor in Bradford child deaths

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/15/cousin-marriages-cited-as-significant-factor-bradford-child-deaths>

Madrasa ousted from secondary school following lesson telling Muslim girls to have children, not careers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/13/madrasa-ousted-secondary-school-following-lesson-telling-muslim/>

Vets call for ban on export of halal lamb

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/vets-call-for-ban-on-export-of-halal-lamb-rbf59b6k0>

Opt-out organ donation 'raises questions about consent', says leading ethics expert

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17436506.opt-out-organ-donation-raises-questions-about-consent-says-leading-ethics-expert/>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

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

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

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>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-12/debates/3750f2e1-84fa-45e8-b3e4-31dede3a25db/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-12/debates/3750f2e1-84fa-45e8-b3e4-31dede3a25db/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(FirstSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-12/debates/5ff8ba17-659f-49cd-bbb6-65f905894d57/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(SecondSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-12/debates/5ff8ba17-659f-49cd-bbb6-65f905894d57/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(SecondSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-14/debates/79f7f454-ad3b-4668-8bb4-2e14d92e2bb8/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(ThirdSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-14/debates/79f7f454-ad3b-4668-8bb4-2e14d92e2bb8/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(ThirdSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-14/debates/0de95a9d-a89b-4989-97da-057652cf7769/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(FourthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-14/debates/0de95a9d-a89b-4989-97da-057652cf7769/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(FourthSitting))

Proposed amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/amend/immigration_rm_pbc_0212.1-4.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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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/>

'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>

**** The Law of Succession** (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Social inclusion, loneliness and belonging in society (closing date not stated)

<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B397FBE3BAF0E3E2B3>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** The Healing Neighbourhoods, Empowering Citizens**

28 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Freedom from Torture stakeholders participation event to share learning and experiences on our work in relation to rehabilitation and integration of Torture Survivors through the Healing Neighbourhoods project. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyvcd7bm>

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/jt93fog> 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>

**** Introduction to Race Equality**

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.30)

CRER training to increase understanding of race and racism in the Scottish context, and provide the tools to promote equality for minority ethnic people. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y5rguwh2>

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>

**** Introduction to Policing Programme**

16 and 24 March, and 6 April 2019 (three-day course) in Edinburgh and Tulliallan

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19jii_ps.pdf ,

contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

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

**** Discover Your Journey: Police Scotland women-only event**

23 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-3.30)

30 March 2019 in Jackton (9.30-3.30)

Police Scotland event to encourage women to consider a career in policing. For information about the Edinburgh event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps2.jpg , and about the Jackton event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps3.jpg contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.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 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>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

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

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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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